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Peppermint

Eun-Jin Seo

TWO

Peppermint
2

Peppermint Volume 2
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Peppermint

Volume 2
Eun-Jin Seo

TOKYOPOP

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

Peppermint

Your heart flutters and you're overwhelmed with the absolutely wonderful feeling of your first kiss

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Get To Know Your Neighbor...

YOUR REGULAR HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORE WHO'S DOWN ON HER LUCK WHEN IT COMES TO A LOVE LIFE. HAVING A CRUSH ON THE UBER-POPULAR SINGER/ACTOR EZ CERTAINLY DOESN'T MAKE THINGS ANY EASIER, BUT SHE'S DETERMINED TO STEP INTO THE SPOTLIGHT OF HIS LIFE.

HANDSOME, FUNNY, RICH... AND DID WE SAY HANDSOME? HE MAY BE A LITTLE NAÏVE, BUT THIS TEEN IDOL'S GOT WHAT ALL THE GIRLS ARE LOOKING FOR, LENDING TO HIS ALREADY HUGE FANCLUB!

WALKING TROUBLE, WITH SKATEBOARD MOVES AS SHARP AS HIS TONGUE. HE HAS A STRANGE ALLERGIC REACTION TO GIRLS EXCEPT FOR WHEN IT COMES TO HEY. HE ALWAYS MANAGES TO POP UP WHEN HEY IS IN A JAM.

Naomi/Sunga/Yu-rim

THEY MAKE UP THE WITCH CLIQUE OF HAKSAN HIGH SCHOOL, AND ARE THE OVERPROTECTIVE FOUNDERS OF THE EZ FANCLUB. WHEN HEY STARTS MOVING IN ON THEIR BELOVED IDOL, THEY'RE READY TO MAKE HER LIFE A LIVING HELL.

EO'S CLASSMATE WHO'S GOT THE HOTS FOR HIM, AND WILL DO ANYTHING TO GET HER MAN.

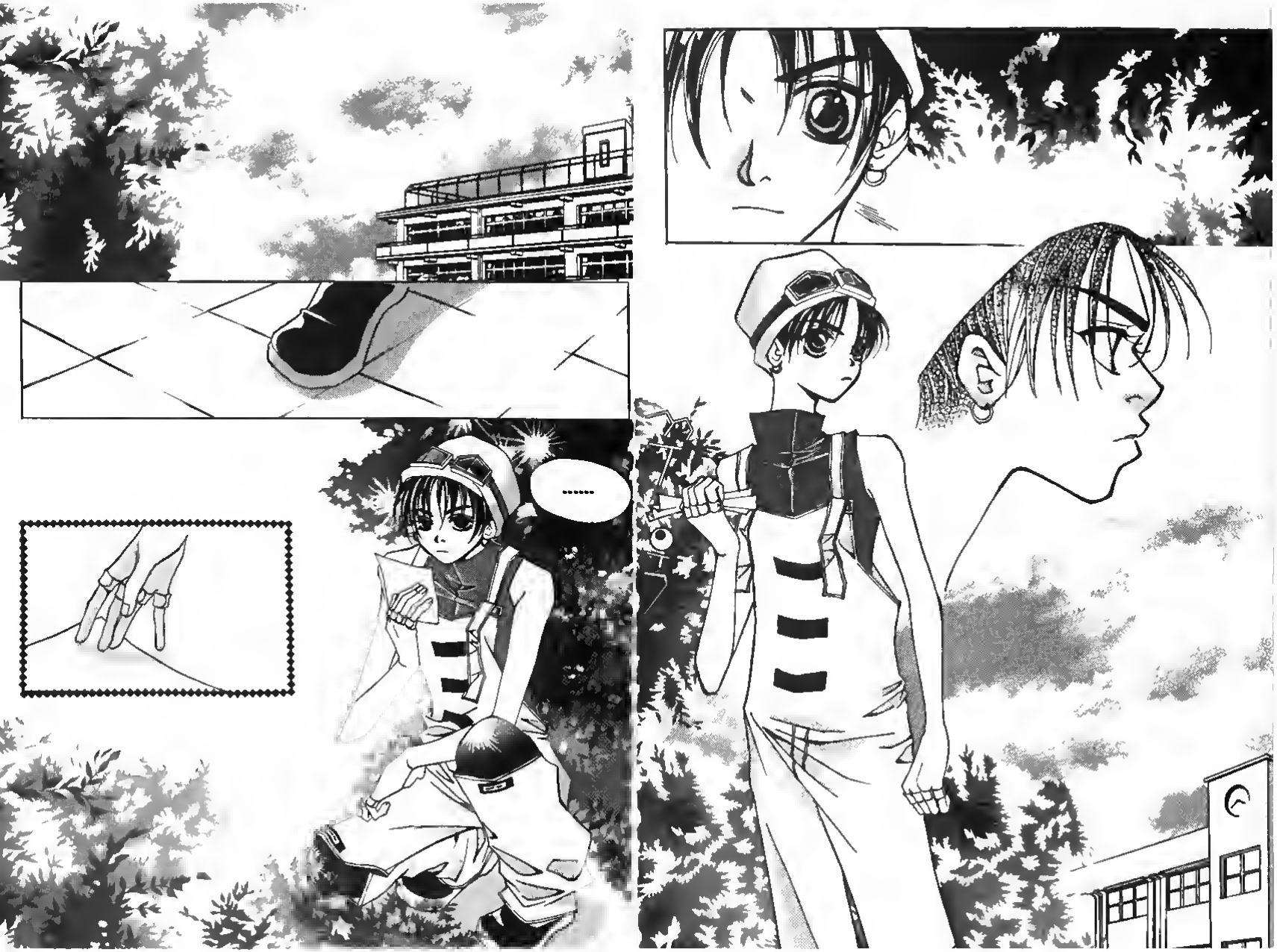
Our Story So Far...

FOR THE FIRST 15 YEARS OF HEY'S LIFE, SHE'S HAD HER HEART SET ON ONE MAN AND ONE MAN ALONE, THE INCREDIBLY POPULAR TEEN IDOL, EZ, WHO ALSO ATTENDS HAKSAN HIGH SCHOOL. AND THOUGH EZ ONLY SEES HER AS A RELIABLE CLASSMATE TO HELP HIM REHEARSE HIS SCRIPTS, HEY'S FALLING FASTER FOR HIM EVERYDAY!

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HER LOVE IS DESTINED TO BE TRAGIC, AS THE EZ FANCLUB'S LEADER, NAOMI, IS DETERMINED TO PULL ALL THE STOPS ON HEY'S QUEST FOR LOVE. IT DOESN'T HELP WHEN A PESKY JUNIOR HIGH KID, BY THE NAME OF ED, ENTERS THE SCENE. FIRST HE STANDS UP TO NAOMI AND HER WICKED SIDEKICKS, THEN HE GOES AND STEALS HEY'S FIRST KISS! HE MAY SEEM BENT ON MAKING AN EVEN BIGGER MESS OF HEY'S LIFE, BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME PART OF HIM THAT'S HONESTLY INTO HEY.

COULD THEIR LITTLE ACT OF PLAYING BOYFRIEND/GIRLFRIEND GET THEM IN EVEN BIGGER TROUBLE...OR LEAD THEM TO THE GARDEN OF EDEN?

Chapter 1: More Than Anything



CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
GO AHEAD, CRY YOUR EYES OUT, YOU LITTLE WIMP!
CLANG CLANG
CLANG
SEE IF ANYONE CAN HEAR YOU FROM IN THERE!
WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE?
WHAT IS THIS, A SECRET GANG MEETING? WHAT ARE YOU WITCHES UP TO?
E-EO!
WHERE IS SHE? SPILL IT!
SHE'S IN THE BOILER ROOM?!
EO...I'M IN HERE!

CRASH
ARE YOU OKAY, HEY?!
EZ?! IS THAT YOU...?
JEEZUS, TELL ME YOU'RE NOT HURT.
WHY...
C'MON, OLD LADY, SNAP OUT OF IT. ARE YOU HURT OR NOT?
EZ WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE ONE TO RESCUE ME.
WHY YOU... AGAIN?
HEY! ARE YOU DEAF? I'M TALKING TO YOU.

Waaah!
Waaah!
WHOA, WHAT'S WITH THE WATER-WORKS?!
Waaah!
안 젖
부젖
WHAT... JUST HAPPENED ?
GLARE
Uh-
oh...

SO, WHAT? NOW YOU'RE JUST GOING TO RUN OFF WITH YOUR TAIL BETWEEN YOUR LEGS?
I SWEAR...IF YOU EVER PULL THIS AGAIN, YOU'RE BOTH DEAD MEAT!
DON'T THINK I WON'T TELL A TEACHER ABOUT THIS! YOU'RE BOTH GOING TO GET IT!
SHEESH, LIGHTEN UP A LITTLE.
HERE, TAKE MY HAND.
YOK

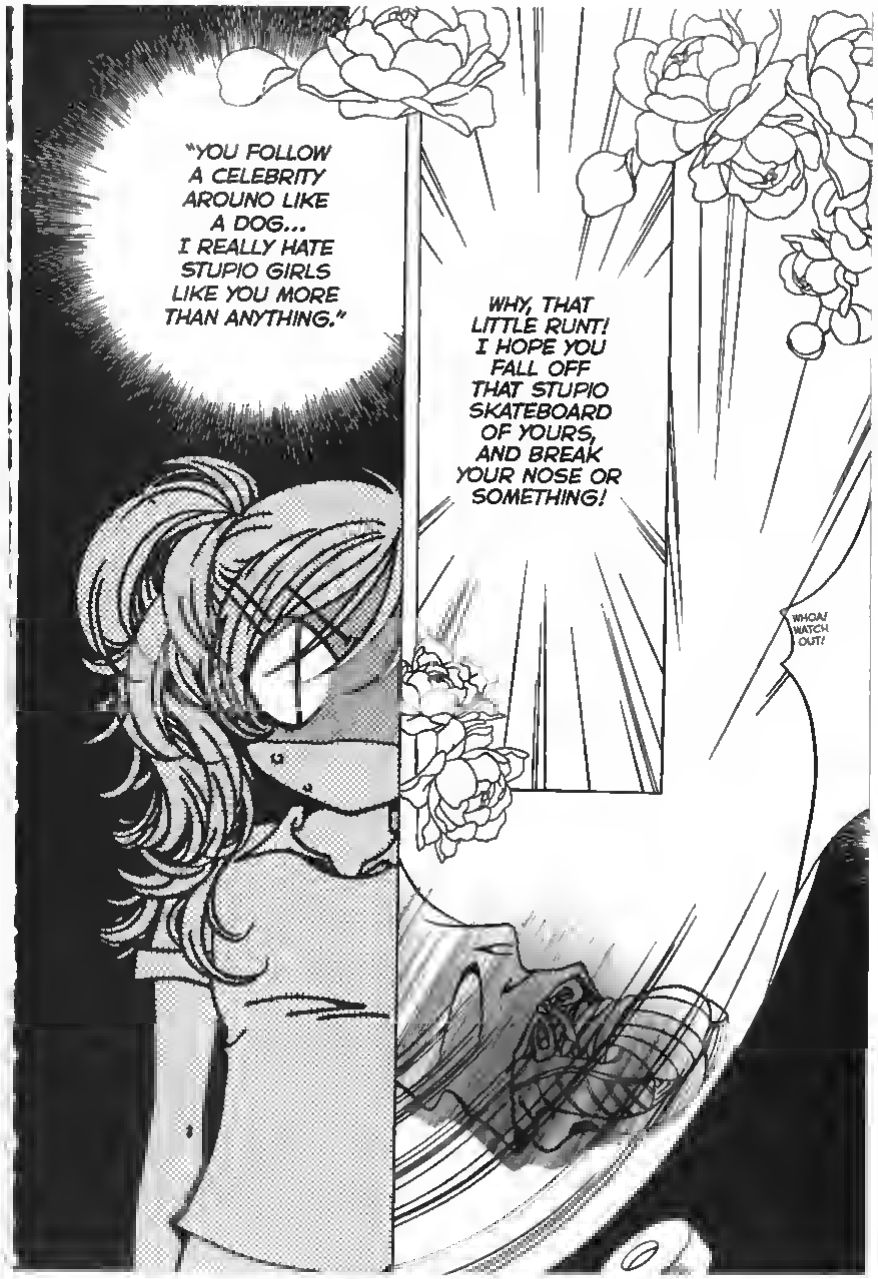
HUH, SO THAT'S HOW IT'S GONNA BE.
YOU MUST'VE BEEN PRETTY SCARED, HUH? IS THAT HOW IT ALWAYS IS IN HIGH SCHOOL?
MAN, I COULD HEAR YOU SCREAMING LIKE A BANSHEE A MILE AWAY!
IT'S A GOOD THING I CAME BY, HUH?
STOMP
STOMP
WHOA, GIRL! WHAT IS UP WITH YOU?
AREN'T YOU GONNA THANK ME?
Y-YOU LITTLE... ERGH! JUST-
WHAT IS THIS?
A CHARM?
JUST STAY AWAY FROM ME!
EVER SINCE I MET YOU, EVERYTHING'S BEEN GOING WRONG!

BESIDES...I DIDN'T NEED YOUR HELP! I WAS TOTALLY FINE ON MY OWN! BUT NOW, IT'S LIKE THE WHOLE WORLD'S AGAINST ME! FIRST THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS, THEN THE BULLYING... I EVEN GOT LOCKED UP IN THE INCINERATOR, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!
IS SHE SERIOUSLY IN HIGH SCHOOL? MORE LIKE NURSERY SCHOOL.
Where did she even find something like this?
SO TELL ME, EXACTLY WHY SHOULD I THANK YOU? BECAUSE OF YOU, MY CHANCES WITH EZ ARE TOTALLY SCREWED!
EZ...?
YOU MEAN THAT "CELEBRITY" EZ RYU?
YES! THAT'S EXACTLY WHO I MEAN!
EZ IS COOL AND POPULAR, AND PEOPLE REALLY LIKE HIM.
AND... WELL... SO DO I.
I MEAN, HE'S A REAL GENTLE-MAN...HE'S NICE AND HUMBLE AND...
AND HE'S AN AMAZING PERSON WHO IS WAY DIFFERENT THAN YOU!
WOW. THAT REALLY SUCKS FOR ME.
YES, IT DOES, DOESN'T IT.
WAIT, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
WELL, IF I KNEW ALL OF THAT, I WOULDN'T HAVE BOTHERED HELPING YOU OUT.

I GOTTA SAY, I'M A LITTLE DISAPPOINTED.
I DIDN'T REALLY THINK YOU WERE ONE OF THOSE KINDS OF GIRLS.
EXCUSE ME? WHAT'S WITH THE ATTITUDE ALL OF A SUDDEN?
PLEASE, STOP ME IF I'M WRONG. FIRST OF ALL, YOU FOLLOW HIM AROUND LIKE A DOG. YOU ACT ALL WEAK AND HELPLESS IN FRONT OF HIM. YOU OBSESS OVER HIS EVERY DETAIL...IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE ME HURL!
I'VE SEEN MY SHARE OF BIMBOS FIGHTING OVER EACH OTHER FOR HIM. IT'S RIDICULOUS!
B-BUT, I...
I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT I REALLY HATE STUPID GIRLS LIKE YOU...MORE THAN ANYTHING!

FINE, WHATEVER! TAKE YOUR LITTLE TANTRUM AND LEAVE ME ALONE!
WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO TALK TO ME LIKE THAT?!
YOU'RE NOT MY FRIEND... YOU'RE NOT ANYTHING!
I DON'T EVEN LIKE YOU. NOT EVEN A LITTLE BIT. IN FACT, I HATE PEOPLE LIKE YOU, TOO!
MORE THAN ANYTHING!
DID YOU HEAR ME?!

Chapter 2: Birthday Party Disaster


"YOU FOLLOW A CELEBRITY AROUND LIKE A DOG... I REALLY HATE STUPID GIRLS LIKE YOU MORE THAN ANYTHING."
WHY, THAT LITTLE RUNT! I HOPE YOU FALL OFF THAT STUPID SKATEBOARD OF YOURS, AND BREAK YOUR NOSE OR SOMETHING!
WHOA! WATCH OUT!

DANG... THAT HURT.
YOU OKAY, EO?
YOU ACTUALLY THOUGHT YOU COULD JUMP OVER THAT? WHAT A DORK.
LAY OFF, GUYS.
MAYBE... YOU COULD TEACH ME.
TEACH YOU?! ARE YOU KIDDING? WHY SHOULD WE?
YEAH...US OLDER KIDS HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO ALL DAY.
EXACTLY. LIKE CHANG-SIK IS SUPPOSED TO BE MEETING US AND HE'S GOT SOME GOOD DIRT ON THE GIRLS FROM SCHOOL. BY THE WAY, WHERE THE HECK IS HE?
Somebody should ask him.
OH, IS THAT ALL? WAKE ME UP WHEN IT'S OVER.
SHEESH, LIKE YOU DON'T TALK ENOUGH ABOUT GIRLS ALREADY.
WHY NOT TRY SOMETHING NEW, LIKE... MAKE A MOVE?
YOU EVER THINK MAYBE THAT'S WHY YOU DON'T HAVE ANY GIRL-FRIENDS?
!
PRETTY BIG TALK FOR A SMALL FRY. SHUT HIM UP, WOULD YA?
YOU GOT IT!
AUGH!
SLAM!

ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY WE'RE NOT ALL THAT? YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW COOL WE ARE, TWERP!
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU'RE LIKE...ALLERGIC TO GIRLS. HAVE YOU EVEN HELD A GIRL'S HAND BEFORE?
UH, Y-YEAH!
REALLY... WHOSE? YOUR GRAND-MA?
NO, YOU AIRHEADS! AND I'VE DONE MORE THAN THAT!
I'VE KISSED...
I'VE KISSED A GIRL!
WHAT?
ON THE CHEEK DOESN'T COUNT!
FIRST OFF, IT WAS ON THE LIPS.
AND YEAH, SHE'S OLDER THAN ME A HIGH SCHOOLER, AS A MATTER OF FACT.
I JUST HAPPENED TO BE WALKING DOWN THE STREET AND GOT A LITTLE LUCKY, GENTS..
JUST HOW OLD WAS SHE, HM?
NEXT, HE'LL TRY TO TELL US SHE WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL OR SOMETHING!
AS IF!
Thinking
Now he's just provoking them.
DID YOU COVER YOUR MOUTH AND KISS YOUR HAND?
What's he thinking?
THAT'S EVEN MORE MESSED UP!
SO? COME ON, DUDE, WHAT WAS IT LIKE?
WELL... KINDA. SEE, AT FIRST...
...IT WAS SORTA WET AND SQUISHY. BUT IT FELT NICE.
YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE YOU MADE OUT WITH A SQUID! SHOULDN'T A GIRL'S LIPS BE "MOIST" AND "SOFT", INSTEAD?
FINE. WHATEVER. HER LIPS WERE LIKE...
THEY WERE...

.....
LOOK AT HIM! HE'S TURNING RED! IT MUST BE TRUE, THEN!
He's reliving his moment of glory
.....
WHOA! HOLD IT! WHAT KIND OF WORLD HAS THIS LITTLE JUNIOR HIGH KID GETTING KISSED AND NOT US? I BET HIS BALLS HAVEN'T EVEN DROPPED YET!
Blush
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
I DIDN'T HAVE ANY... PROBLEMS WITH HER.
My allergies aren't acting pretty fast
AARGH!

BUT I COULDN'T STAND SEEING THEM TORTURE HER LIKE THAT.

— Mmm. If only she wasn't such a demon fan of EZ!

I CAN'T GET HER OUT OF MY HEAD. I WONDER HOW SHE'S DOING...

HA HA HA. YOU'RE IN TROUBLE, PAL. A KISS LIKE THAT MEANS MARRIAGE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO? YOU HAVE TO MARRY HER.

WH-WHAT?! ARE YOU SERIOUS? WHAT AM I GONNA DO NOW?!

Huh, huh. Poor innocent kid.

♥ Bonus Chapter Preview ♥

STAY TUNED FOR THE BONUS CHAPTER AT THE END OF THE BOOK, *YOU ARE MY SHINING STAR*, WHERE YOU CAN MEET YOUNGER EZ!

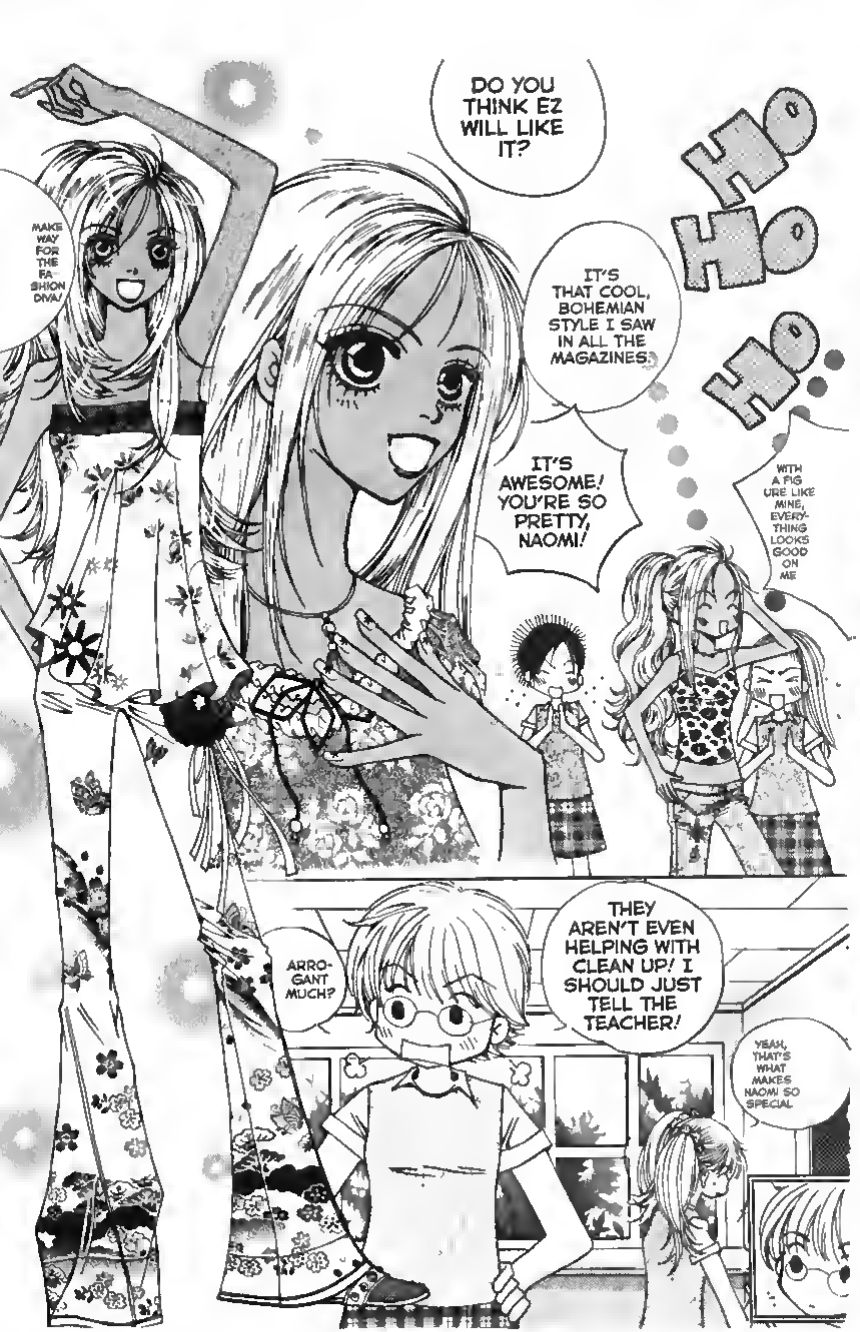
COMPARED TO THE FIRST VOLUME, EZ'S FACE LOOKS A LOT DIFFERENT.♡ I HOPE NOBODY MINDS TOO MUCH.

← TOO MANY PEOPLE SAID THAT EZ LOOKED OLD, SO WE WORKED HARD TO MAKE HIM LOOK A LOT YOUNGER.

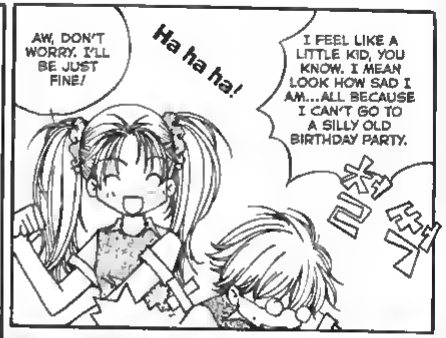
HEY, YOU LOOK AMAZING!

I KNOW IT'S EZ'S BIRTHDAY, BUT I DIDN'T THINK THE WHOLE SCHOOL WOULD BE SO CRAZY!

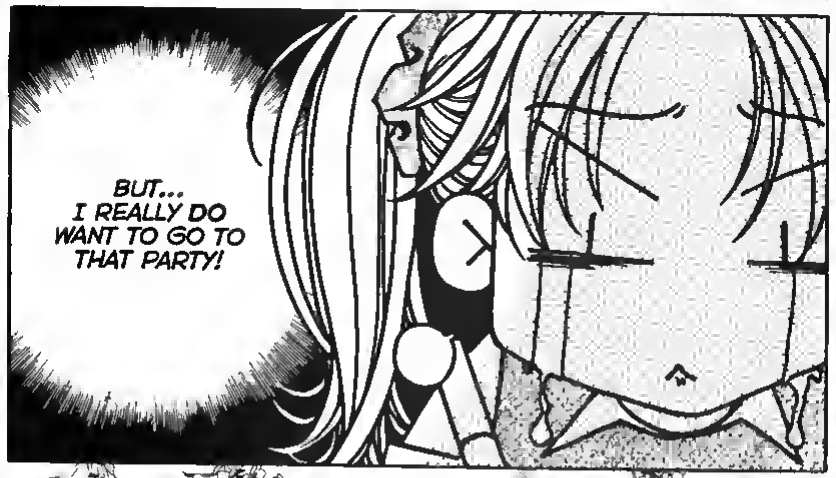
WITHOUT SOME REALLY GOOD CONNECTIONS, IT'S GONNA BE PRETTY HARD GETTING IN, HEY.


MAKE WAY FOR THE FASHION DIVA!
DO YOU THINK EZ WILL LIKE IT?
HO HO HO
IT'S THAT COOL, BOHEMIAN STYLE I SAW IN ALL THE MAGAZINES.
IT'S AWESOME! YOU'RE SO PRETTY, NAOMI!
WITH A FIGURE LIKE MINE, EVERYTHING LOOKS GOOD ON ME
ARROGANT MUCH?
THEY AREN'T EVEN HELPING WITH CLEAN UP! I SHOULD JUST TELL THE TEACHER!
YEAH, THAT'S WHAT MAKES NAOMI SO SPECIAL

HEY, ARE YOU OKAY? LISTEN, ABOUT THE INVITATION...
YES? WHAT ABOUT IT?

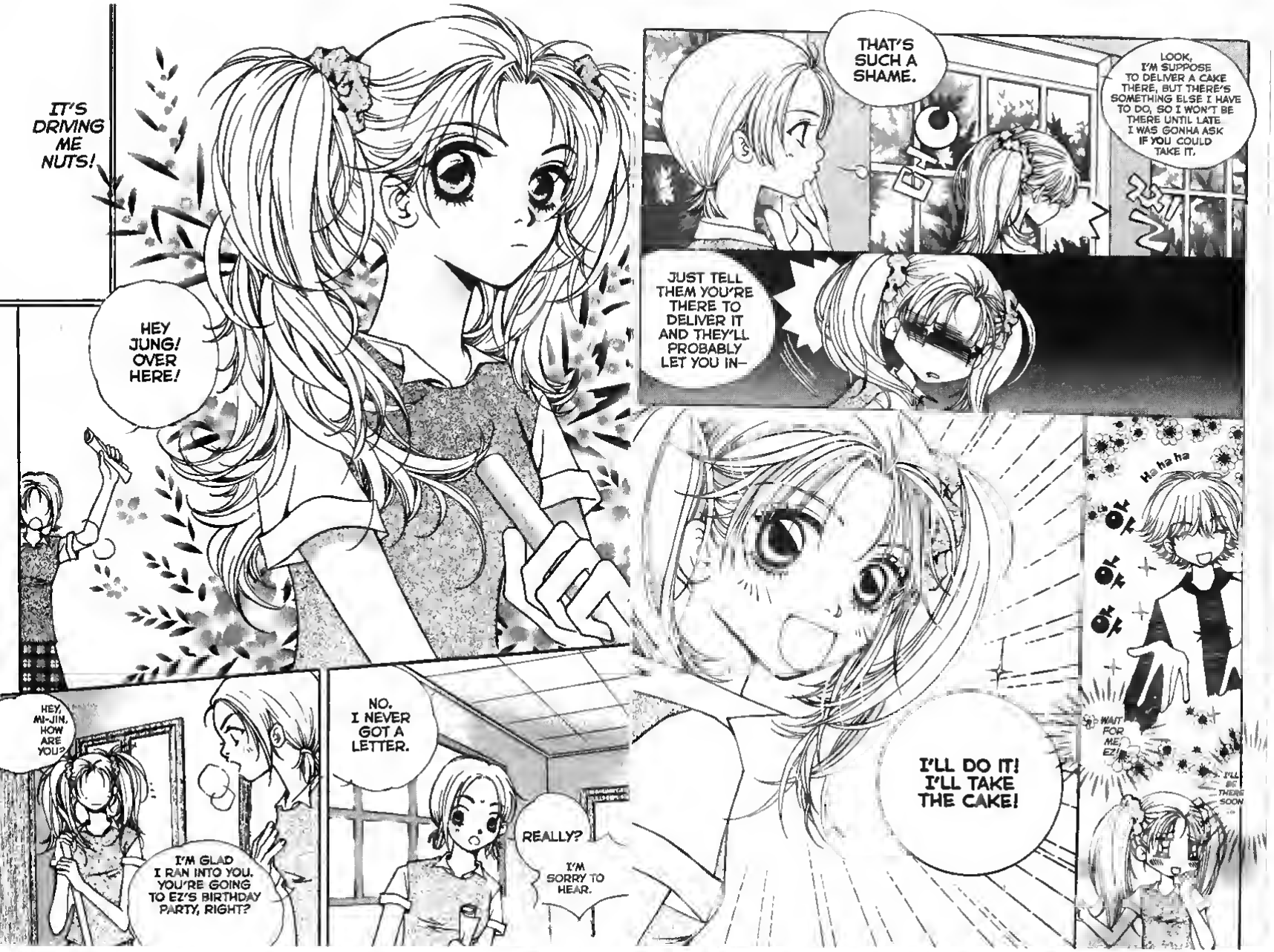

AW, DON'T WORRY. I'LL BE JUST FINE!
Ha ha ha!
I FEEL LIKE A LITTLE KID, YOU KNOW. I MEAN LOOK HOW SAD I AM...ALL BECAUSE I CAN'T GO TO A SILLY OLD BIRTHDAY PARTY.

I KNOW I'M ACTING CRAZY...

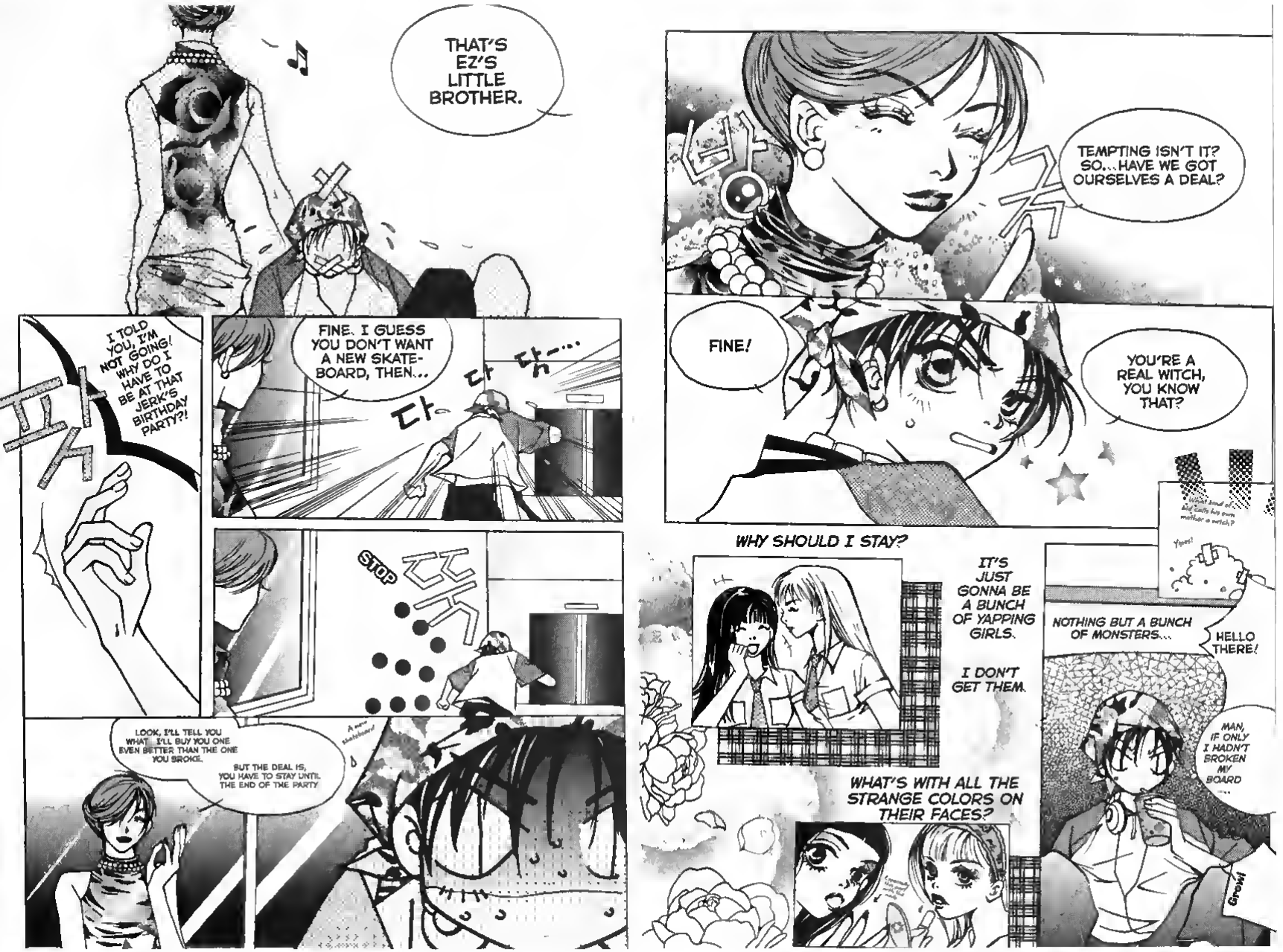

BUT... I REALLY DO WANT TO GO TO THAT PARTY!

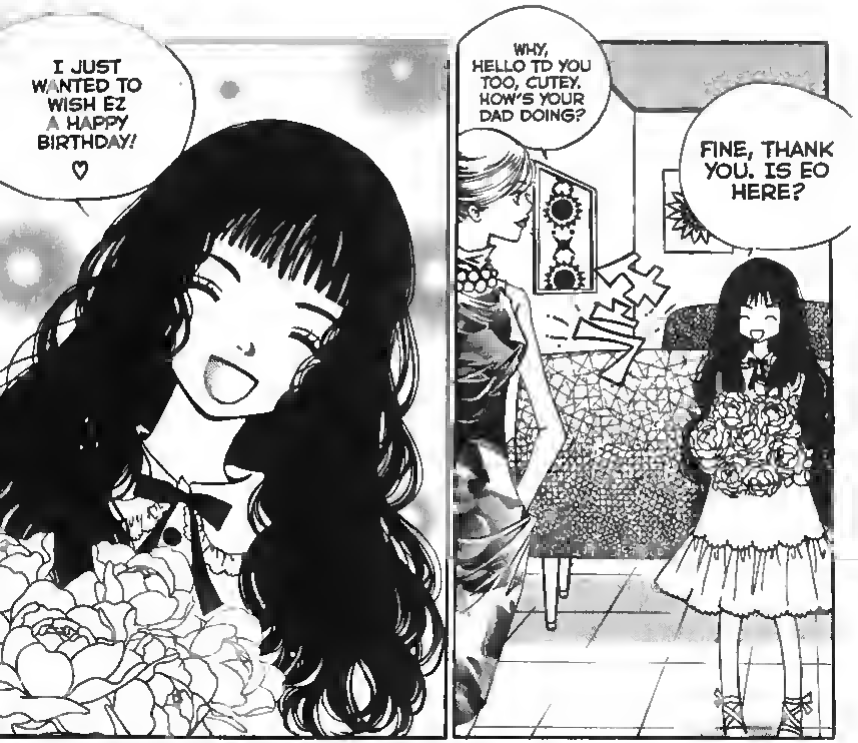
SHOULD I JUST ASK EZ? I MEAN I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, BUT...
...I DON'T WANT TO START HOUNDING HIM.

OKAY...I'VE JUST GOTTA PLAY IT COOL.
OOH! BUT I JUST GOTTA GET INTO THAT PARTY! I JUST GOTTA!


IT'S DRIVING ME NUTS!
HEY JUNG! OVER HERE!
HEY, MI-JIN. HOW ARE YOU?
I'M GLAD I RAN INTO YOU. YOU'RE GOING TO EZ'S BIRTHDAY PARTY, RIGHT?
NO. I NEVER GOT A LETTER.
REALLY?
I'M SORRY TO HEAR.
THAT'S SUCH A SHAME.
LOOK, I'M SUPPOSE TO DELIVER A CAKE THERE, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I HAVE TO DO, SO I WON'T BE THERE UNTIL LATE. I WAS GONHA ASK IF YOU COULD TAKE IT.
JUST TELL THEM YOU'RE THERE TO DELIVER IT AND THEY'LL PROBABLY LET YOU IN–
I'LL DO IT! I'LL TAKE THE CAKE!
Ha ha ha
Ok
Ok
Ok
WAIT FOR ME, EZ!
I'LL BE THERE SOON

EO!
WOULD YOU PLEASE JUST WAIT A SECOND?!
HEH HEH.
I WILL IF YOU CAN KEEP UP!
C'MON, GIRLS, WHERE'S YOUR STAMINA?
CRASH
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, YOU RASCAL!
WHO...WHO WAS THAT BOY JUST NOW?
IS HE A RELATIVE?
YOU MEAN YOU'VE NEVER SEEN HIM?
This isn't the first time they've been at each other's necks like this...


THAT'S EZ'S LITTLE BROTHER.
I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT GOING! WHY DO I HAVE TO BE AT THAT JERK'S BIRTHDAY PARTY?!
FINE. I GUESS YOU DON'T WANT A NEW SKATE-BOARD, THEN...
다-
다
다-...
STOP
LOOK, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT. I'LL BUY YOU ONE EVEN BETTER THAN THE ONE YOU BROKE.
BUT THE DEAL IS, YOU HAVE TO STAY UNTIL THE END OF THE PARTY.
A new skateboard!
TEMPTING ISN'T IT? SO...HAVE WE GOT OURSELVES A DEAL?
FINE!
YOU'RE A REAL WITCH, YOU KNOW THAT?
WHY SHOULD I STAY?
IT'S JUST GONNA BE A BUNCH OF YAPPING GIRLS.
I DON'T GET THEM.
WHAT'S WITH ALL THE STRANGE COLORS ON THEIR FACES?
NOTHING BUT A BUNCH OF MONSTERS...
HELLO THERE!
MAN, IF ONLY I HADN'T BROKEN MY BOARD ...
Yawn!
Gasp!

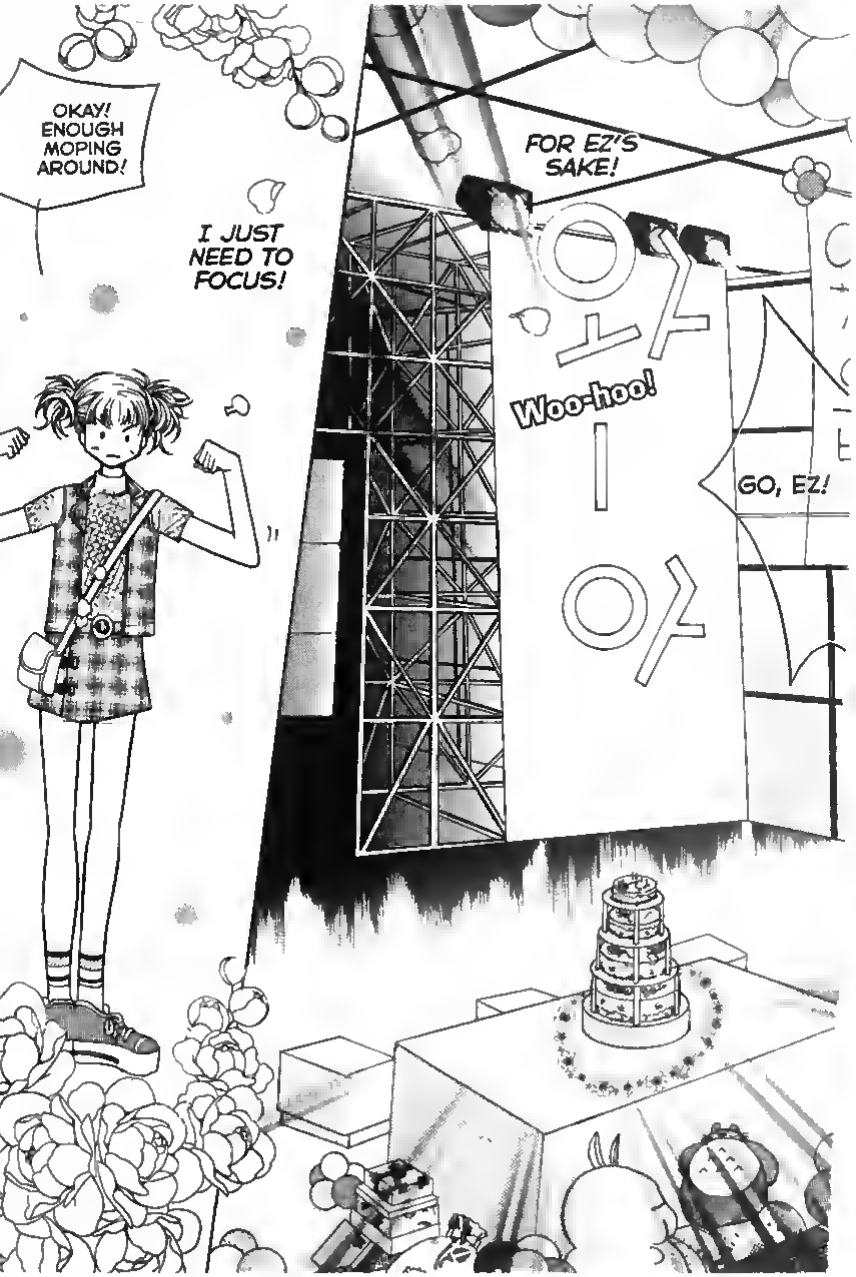

I JUST WANTED TO WISH EZ A HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ♡
WHY, HELLO TO YOU TOO, CUTEY. HOW'S YOUR DAD DOING?
FINE, THANK YOU. IS EO HERE?

I WANTED TO TALK TO HIM, TOO.
HE WAS HERE A MINUTE AGO.
SLURP
GOOD. THE COAST IS CLEAR.

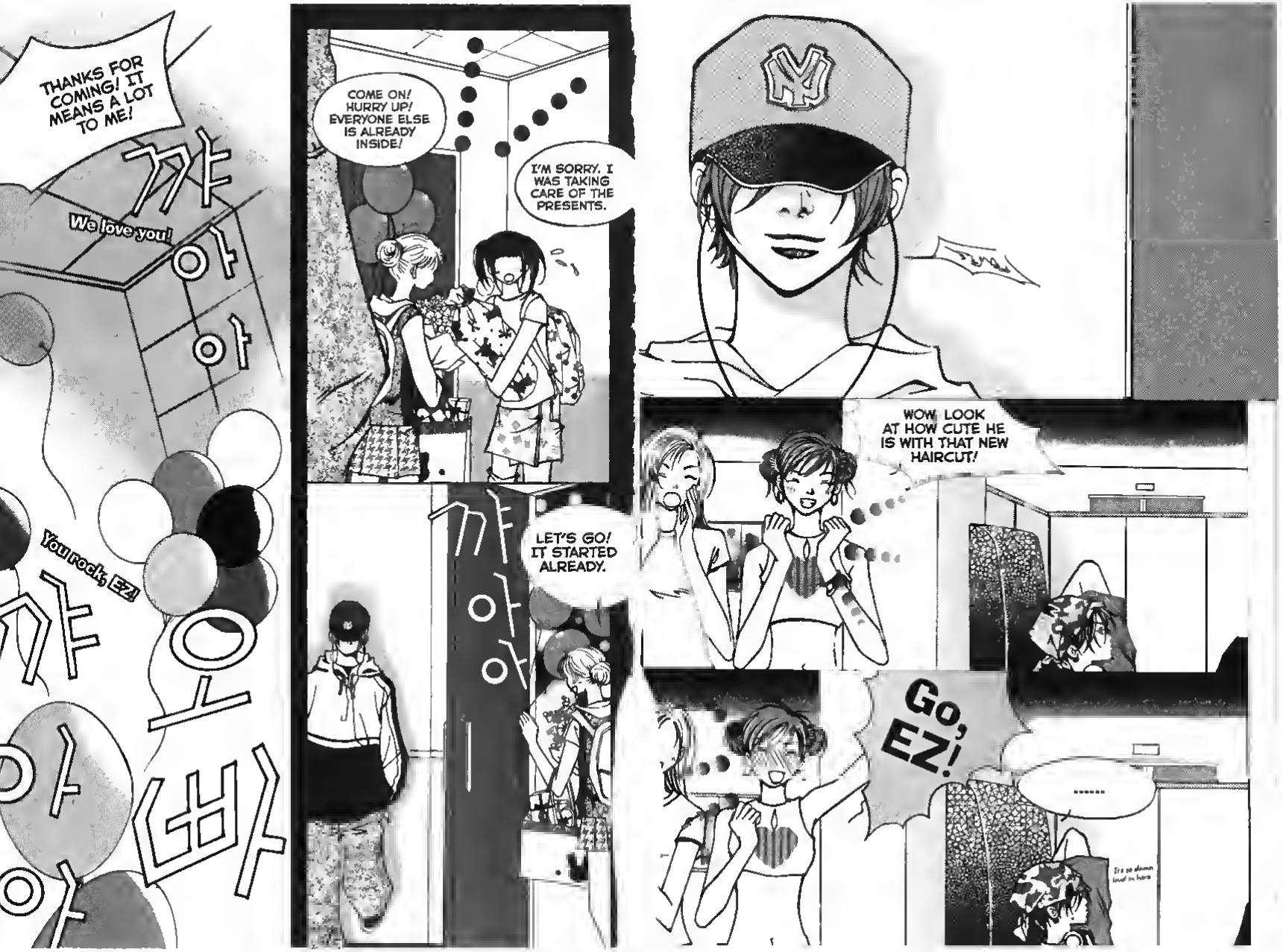
YOU TOOK CARE OF EVERYTHING, RIGHT?
I DID EXACTLY WHAT YOU TOLD ME SHE'S DELIVERING THE BIRTHDAY CAKE TO THE WRONG ADDRESS SHE WAS SO HAPPY, I DON'T EVEN THINK SHE'LL EVEN REALIZE IT!
GREAT! GOOD JOB!
!
BUT IS ALL THIS REALLY NECESSARY? I MEAN...I'M SURE THE CLUB WILL HANDLE THINGS ON THEIR OWN.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! NAOMI'S REALLY FOCUSED ON THIS.
HEY'S HAD IT COMING TO HER FOR A LONG TIME NOW. DON'T START THINKING OF GETTING COLD FEET.
SHE'S STILL TRYING TO GET RID OF HER, HUH?
SPLURT

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE LOOK ON HER FACE WHEN SHE FIGURES OUT SHE'S BEEN DUPED!
GREAT! THIS IS THE LAST THING I NEED RIGHT NOW...
NOT HEY AGAIN!
OH, GREAT. IT'S RAINING ...

HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?!
GOD, I AM SUCH AN IDIOT! I MUST HAVE WRITTEN DOWN THE WRONG ADDRESS! I DON'T SEE HIS HOUSE ANYWHERE!
AND I CAN'T EVEN CALL THEM. I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR THIS PLACE FOR OVER AN HOUR.
"YOU UNDERSTAND, RIGHT, HEY? NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, YOU HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT CAKE GETS THERE."
"THIS IS A SPECIAL SURPRISE FOR EZ'S BIRTHDAY."


OKAY! ENOUGH MOPING AROUND!
I JUST NEED TO FOCUS!
FOR EZ'S SAKE!
Woo-hoo!
GO, EZ!

THANK YOU, EVERYONE!
SQUEAL!
We love you, EZ!
ALL RIGHT EVERYONE, QUIET DOWN. WE ARE NOW GOING TO HOLD...
...A LITTLE EZ TRIVIA POP QUIZ!
AND WE'RE TOLD THAT THE LUCKY WINNER WILL GET A NICE BIG KISS FROM EZ RYU HIMSELF!
WHILE BEHIND STAGE...
IT'S OKAY. I CAN'T LET THAT BOTHER ME TODAY...
in charge of transporting the cake
HEY! SOMEONE FIND OUT WHO THAT FREAKIN' MC IS!
THADUMP
THADUMP

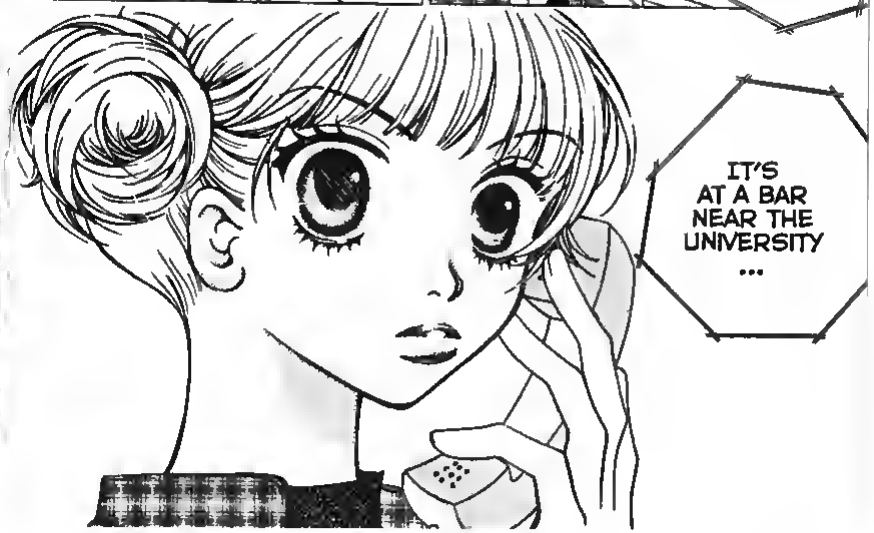

THANKS FOR COMING! IT MEANS A LOT TO ME!
We love you!
You rock, EZ!
COME ON! HURRY UP! EVERYONE ELSE IS ALREADY INSIDE!
I'M SORRY. I WAS TAKING CARE OF THE PRESENTS.
LET'S GO! IT STARTED ALREADY.
WOW, LOOK AT HOW CUTE HE IS WITH THAT NEW HAIRCUT!
Go, EZ!
.....

I WONDER IF SHE'S OKAY.
SHE'S SO CLUELESS, SHE'S EVEN GOT JUNIOR HIGH KIDS PICKING ON HER!
WHOSE FAULT IS THAT? IT'S RIDICULOUS! IS IT REALLY MY JOB TO PROTECT HER?!
The Face of Innocence
WAIT A MINUTE. WHAT AM I DOING? WHY DO I KEEP WORRYING ABOUT HER?

WOULD YOU LOOK AT THIS RAIN!
YOU KNOW WHAT... SHE'S NOT MY RESPONSIBILITY.
SHE LIKES EZ, NOT ME...SO HE SHOULD BE THE ONE HELPING HER.
WHAT A DOWN-POUR!
IT'S RAINING SO HARD, I CAN'T EVEN SEE IN FRONT OF ME.
AND I DIDN'T EVEN BRING AN UMBRELLA...
재잘
Yap yap
.....
I ACTUALLY FEEL A LITTLE BAD. DID YOU SEE THAT LINE OF GIRLS WHO CAN'T EVEN GET IN?
POOR THINGS, HUH?
Yap yap
재잘

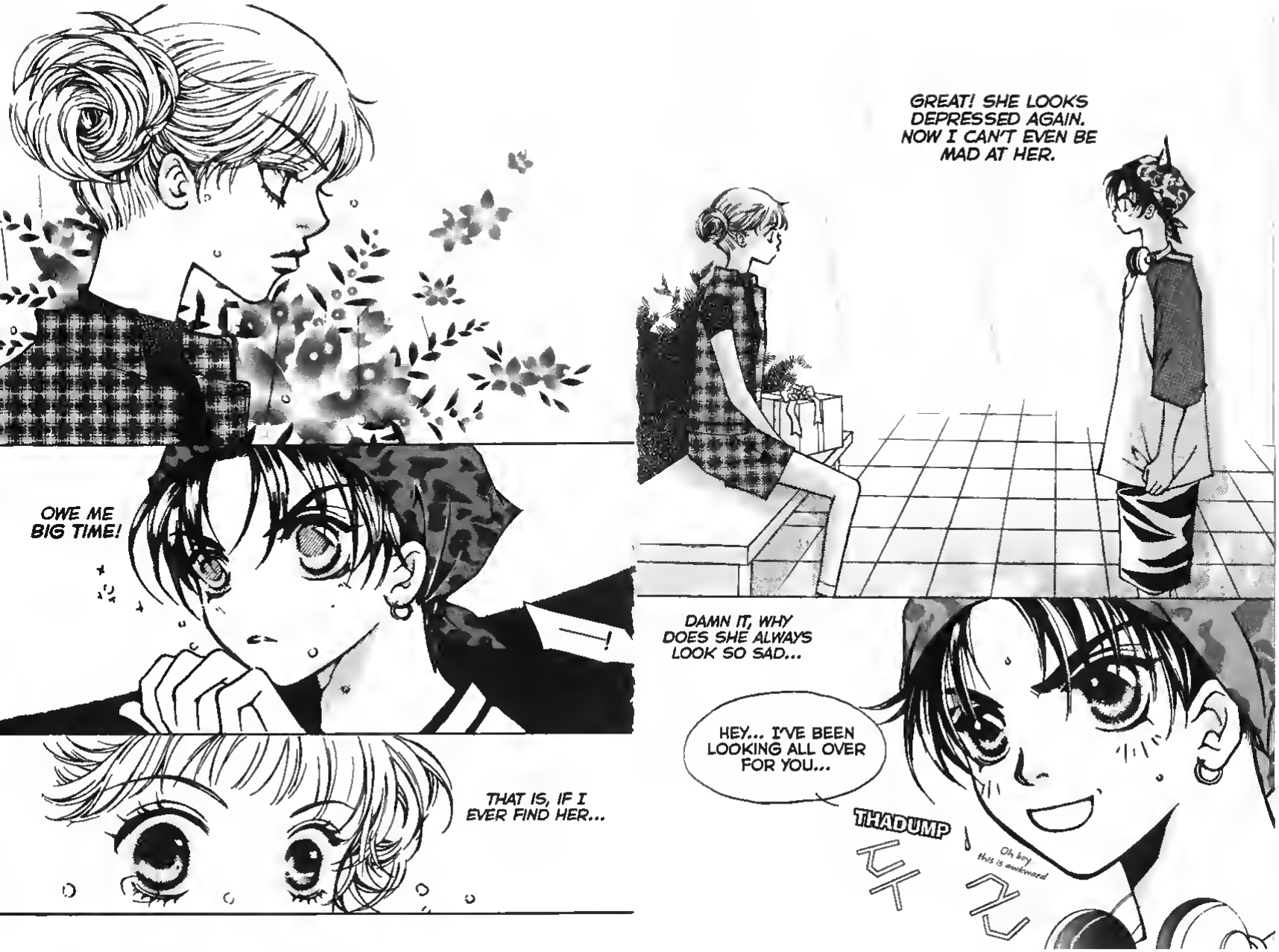
ARGH!
DARN IT!
FINE! I'LL GO HELP HER, ALL RIGHT?! YA HAPPY NOW?
JUST STOP MAKING ME THINK ABOUT HER.
SHEESH!
YOU GUYS GOT ANY IDEA WHERE HEY IS RIGHT NOW?
S-SHE'S AT 5350 WEST STREET...
Stuttered it out without thinking.
UM...
HEY, YOU'RE... YOU'RE...
EZ RYU! EZ RYU!
Yeah!
WE LOVE YOU, EZ!
I'LL DEAL WITH YOU GUYS LATER.
YEAH, I KNOW... THANKS FOR THE TIP.
WHAT...WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME! NO ONE'S ANSWERING.
THE NUMBER YOU ARE TRYING TO REACH IS NOT AVAILABLE...
HI, IS SEUNG-HEE THERE?
YEAH, IT'S ME. WHAT'S GOING ON?
LOOK, I'M A BIT LOST HERE.
IS EZ'S BIRTHDAY PARTY AT SOME OFFICE NEAR THE STATION? I DON'T KNOW IF I WROTE DOWN THE WRONG ADDRESS OR WHAT, BUT I CAN'T FIND IT ANYWHERE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?


IT'S AT A BAR NEAR THE UNIVERSITY ...

WHAT?!
HEY I FOUND YOU!
HUH?

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
MAN, TALK ABOUT CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH THE UGLY KIND. ALMOST GAVE ME A HEART ATTACK.
THIS WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER ON MY SKATEBOARD.
WHERE THE HELL COULD SHE BE?
JUST WAIT UNTIL I FIND HER.
SHE'S GONNA OWE ME!
!!


OWE ME BIG TIME!
THAT IS, IF I EVER FIND HER...
GREAT! SHE LOOKS DEPRESSED AGAIN. NOW I CAN'T EVEN BE MAD AT HER.
DAMN IT, WHY DOES SHE ALWAYS LOOK SO SAD...
HEY... I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU...
THADUMP
Oh boy. This is awkward

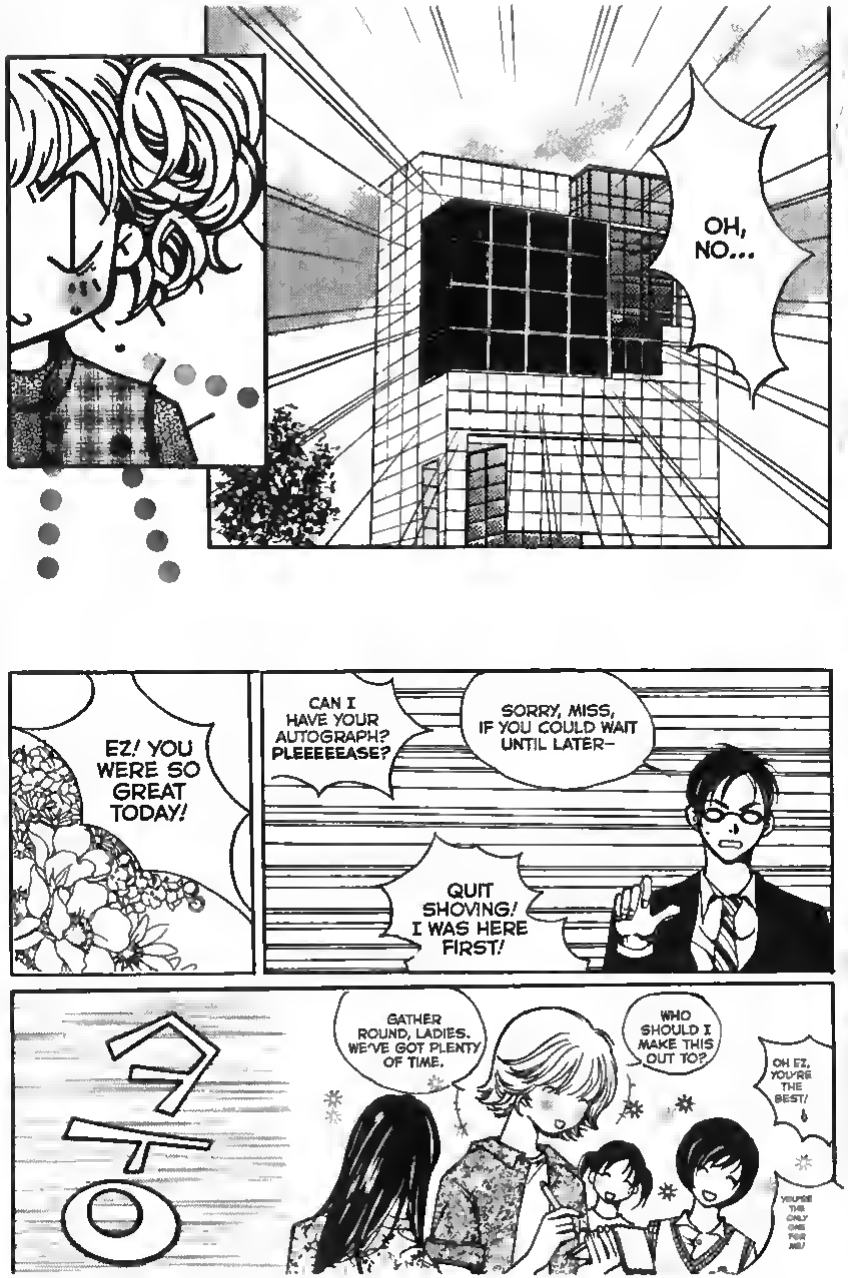
AGH! STAY AWAY FROM ME! YOU'RE NOTHING BUT BAD LUCK!
JUST REMEMBER WHO CAME TO YOUR RESCUE... AGAIN...
Bad luck? You should be on your hands and knees thanking me.
Or not! Whatever.
SHRUG
YOU REALLY THINK...
...THAT I CAUSE YOU BAD LUCK?
Wait a
second!
HEY, GIVE ME A MINUTE HERE. I DEMAND AN EXPLANATION!
PLEASE, DO NOT FOLLOW ME!
SHOCK
Angry!
tmp tmp tmp
HOLD IT! LIKE YOU DON'T GET ANGRY WITH ME?
GIVE ME A BREAK, KID! IT'S PRACTICALLY WRITTEN ALL OVER YOUR FACE!
WHENEVER YOU SEE ME, ALL YOU DO IS GET ANGRY AND START YELLING!
COME ON, PLEASE! YOU OLD MAID, JUST STOP!
Eek!

GASP
UH-OH...
Waaah!
GREAT! AGAIN WITH THE TEARS. COULD YOU AT LEAST GET OUT OF THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET?! THIS IS SO EMBARRASSING! GET UP ALREADY!
Well right now because people are gonna think I made you cry.
COME ON. THEY'RE STARING AT US!
WH-WHAT DO YOU CARE?

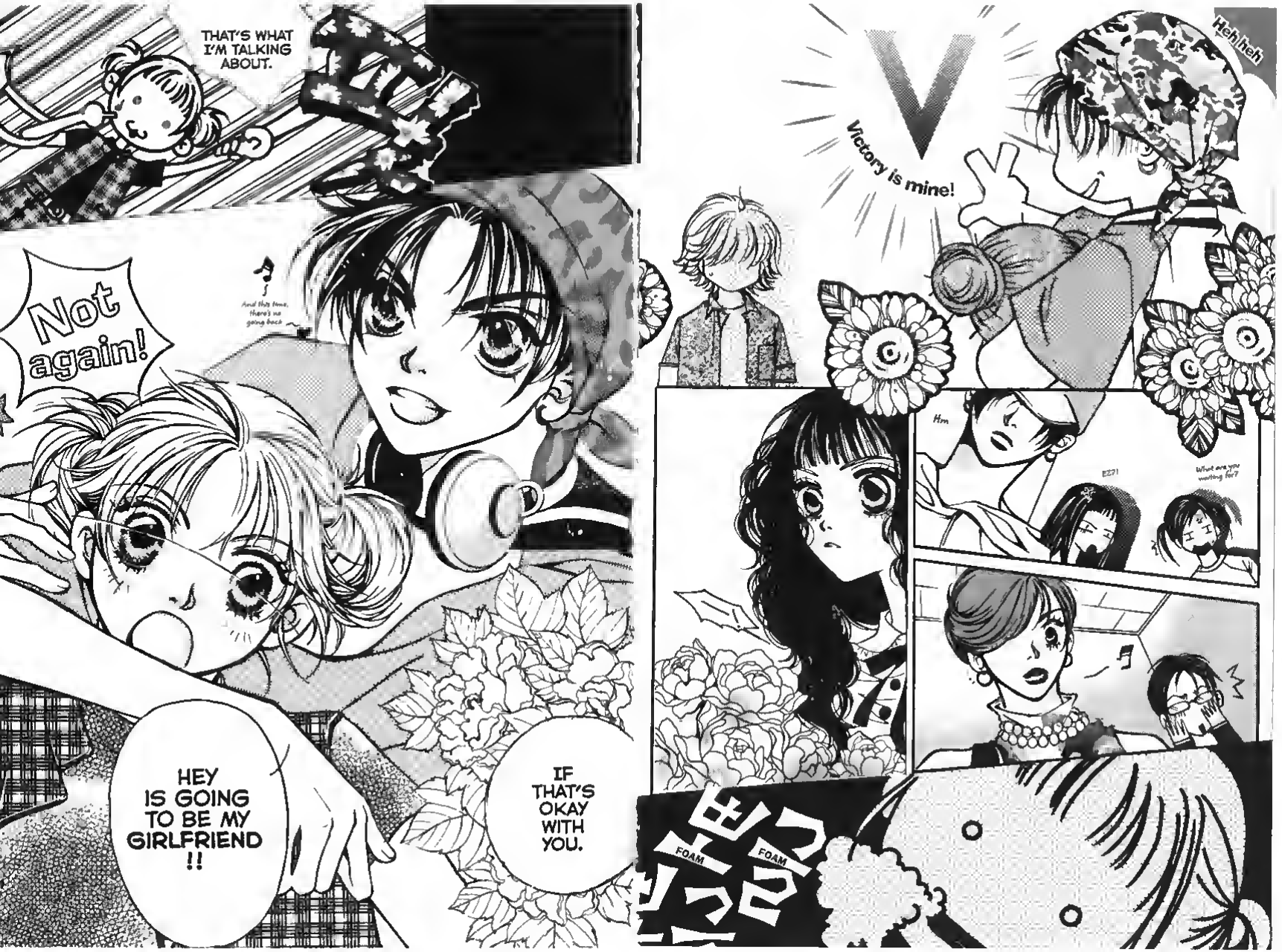
I WAS SUPPOSED TO BRING THAT CAKE TO EZ AND I SCREWED UP
EO... DO YOU THINK I'M AN IDIOT?
NO, NOT AT ALL. I THINK–
THAT I'M AN IDIOT, RIGHT?
W-WELL, WHAT ABOUT YOU?!
WHY AM I ACTING LIKE THIS?
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS SHOW UP WHEN I'M COMPLETELY DOWN?
YOU SAID YOU DON'T EVEN LIKE ME, SO WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS HERE?
YOU'RE SERIOUSLY DRIVING ME CRAZY! YOU HAVE FROM THE FIRST MOMENT I MET YOU!
LET ME SPELL IT OUT FOR YOU. IT'S YOUR FAULT I WAS LOCKED IN THAT INCINERATOR. IT'S YOUR FAULT PEOPLE ARE MAKING FUN OF ME, AND...
...IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU...
I THINK I'M LOSING IT. BUT IF I DON'T GET THIS OFF MY CHEST, I'LL JUST SNAP!
...I WOULDN'T BE A SOCIAL OUTCAST.
ALL OF THAT IS BECAUSE OF YOU. SO YOU BETTER STEP UP AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY.
DID YOU HEAR ME?!
UHooo
THAT WAS, UH ...
THAT WAS QUITE AN OUT-BURST.

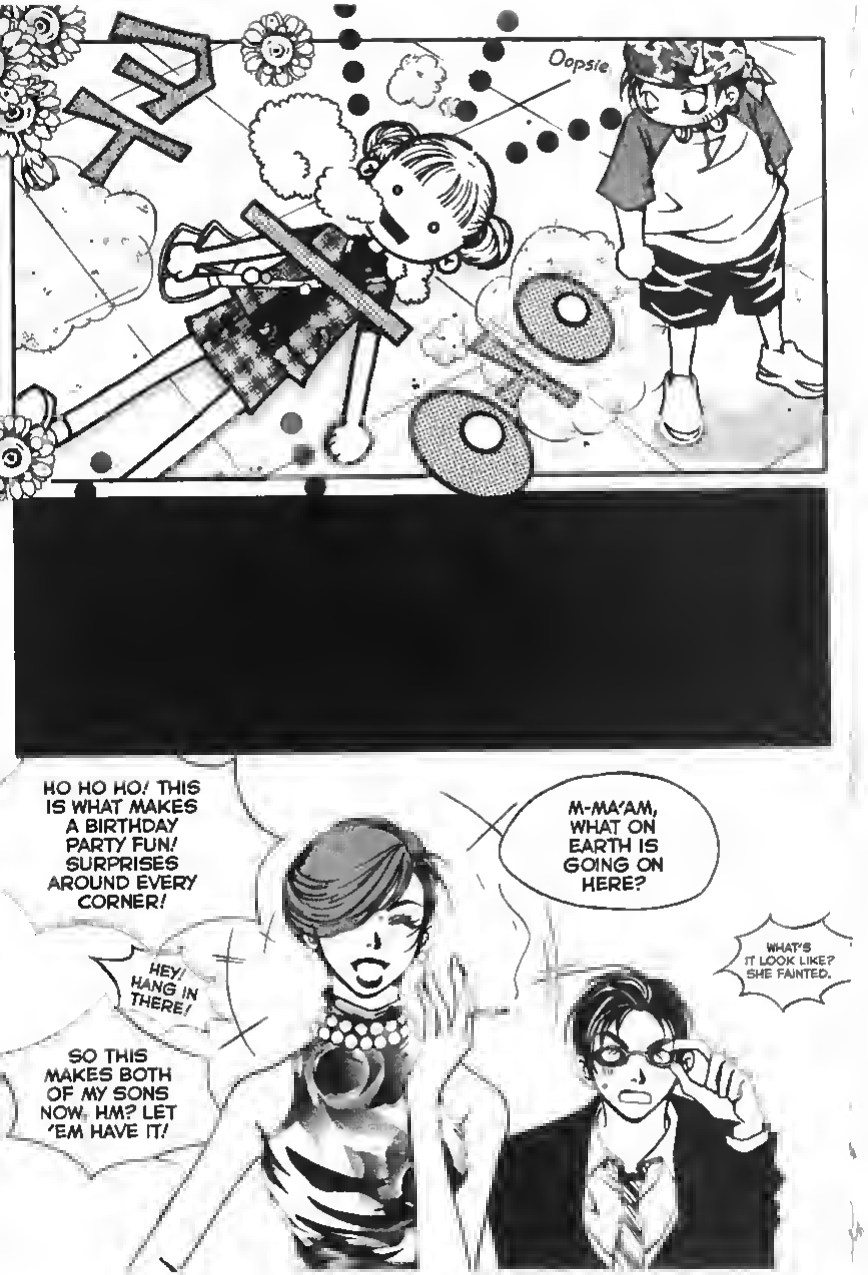
PHEW, I ACTUALLY FEEL BETTER NOW THAT I GOT THAT OUT
I'LL ADMIT, I WAS THOUGHT-LESS.
This is awkward
Where did all these flowers come from?
YOU WANT ME TO TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY, RIGHT?
IS HE... ACTUALLY APOLOGIZING?
Sob
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S TRYING TO SAY...
LOOK, I'M A LITTLE NEW AT THIS WHOLE DEALING-WITH-GIRLS THING, SO LET'S WORK THIS OUT TOGETHER.
Some of the older girls warned me that sort of thing would happen.
LOOK, I PROMISE TO STOP YELLING AT YOU, IF YOU PROMISE TO STOP WHINING.
ZONE
DO YOU MEAN IT?
OF COURSE!
BZZT
BZZT
WHY ARE YOU STILL CLINGING TO THAT THING?
YOU'RE YELLING AT ME AGAIN!
QUIT DAY-DREAMING AND THROW THE DAMN CAKE AWAY!
I KNEW HE COULDN'T DO IT.
LET GO OF ME!

PLEASE. CAN YOU JUST FOLLOW ME WITHOUT YAPPING AND ASKING SO MANY QUESTIONS?
WHAT I REMEMBER MOST ABOUT THAT DAY...
...WAS THE FEELING OF THE RAIN HITTING MY FACE. IT SEEMED TO BE ENDLESS...
AND THE SWEET SMELL OF THE CAKE, AS IT CRUMBLED LIKE MY HEART.
YAPPING?! I'LL GIVE YOU YAPPING!
AND HAS ANYONE EVER TOLD YOU, YOU CAN'T TALK TO A WOMAN THAT WAY?
IF YOU WANT ME TO TREAT YOU LIKE A WOMAN, THEN START ACTING LIKE ONE.
I CAN HANDLE IT.
I'D LIKE MY HAND BACK, THANK YOU VERY MUCH. AND BESIDES...WHWHERE ARE WE GOING?
I REMEMBER HOW ANGRY HE LOOKED.
BUT ALSO THE WARMTH OF HIS HAND AS IT SQUEEZED MINE.


OH, NO...
EZ! YOU WERE SO GREAT TODAY!
CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH? PLEEEEEASE?
SORRY, MISS, IF YOU COULD WAIT UNTIL LATER–
QUIT SHOVING! I WAS HERE FIRST!
GATHER ROUND, LADIES. WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME.
WHO SHOULD I MAKE THIS OUT TO?
OH EZ, YOU'RE THE BEST!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE FOR ME!
7 TO 9
HEY, EZ RYU!
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS ONE?
HEY?
Oh, EZ...you're here, too...
SKRCH
I FOUND HER WANDERING THE STREETS.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
You're soaked
THE GIRLS IN YOUR LITTLE FAN CLUB ARE PULLING SOME DIRTY TRICKS ON HER.

—!
Hey! Jung-woo!
AND THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME. SO THE QUESTION IS, WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT IT? THIS IS YOUR NUMBER ONE FAN HERE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.
AND AS FAR AS I CAN SEE, ALL OF THIS HAPPENED BECAUSE OF YOU. SO, ARE YOU GONNA STEP UP?
IF YOU REALLY CARE ABOUT HER, YOU SHOULD HELP HER OUT...AT THE VERY LEAST.
EZ... LOOK I'M SORRY I—
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN MAKE HIM HELP ME.
I'M FINE! REALLY! PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
HEY...
WILL YOU LOOK AT THE TIME! I THINK I'M GONNA HEAD OUT NOW...
GREAT, NOW HE'S JUST GONNA FEEL AWKWARD AROUND ME.

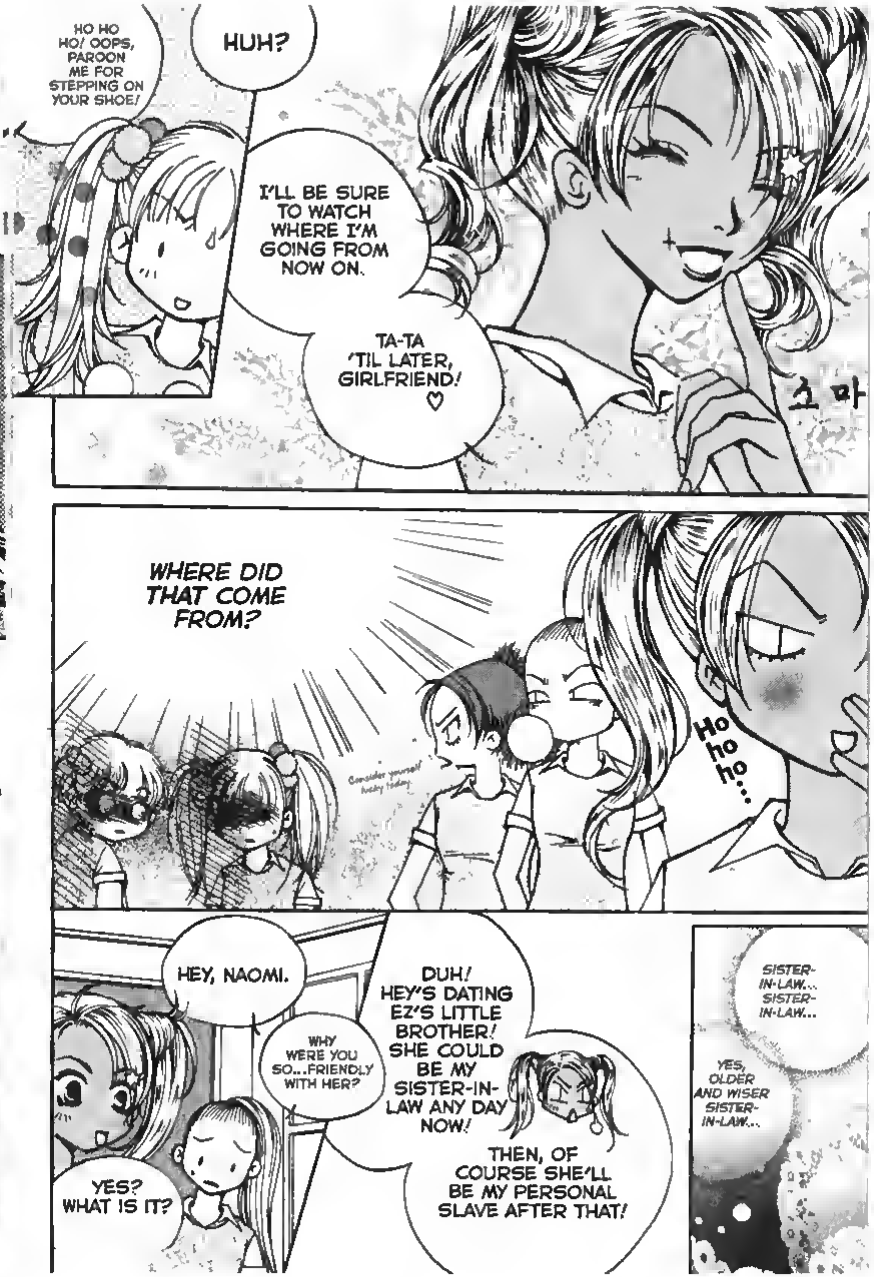

THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.
Not again!
And this time, there's no going back
HEY IS GOING TO BE MY GIRLFRIEND !!
IF THAT'S OKAY WITH YOU.
V
Victory is mine!
Heh heh
Hm
What are you waiting for?
FOAM
FOAM


Oopsie
HO HO HO! THIS IS WHAT MAKES A BIRTHDAY PARTY FUN! SURPRISES AROUND EVERY CORNER!
M-MA'AM, WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON HERE?
HEY! HANG IN THERE!
WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE? SHE FAINTED.
SO THIS MAKES BOTH OF MY SONS NOW. HM? LET 'EM HAVE IT!

Chapter 3: Boyfriend

HMM ...
SO...DOES THIS MEAN YOU TWO ARE GOING STEADY?
Once again, she's the only one cleaning.
AS IF!
I SWEAR, I'M GONNA HAVE NIGHTMARES ABOUT THIS! I DON'T EVEN WANT TO HEAR ANOTHER WORD ABOUT IT!
BUT HE CONFESSED HIS LOVE FOR YOU IN FRONT OF EVERYONE! I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING MORE ROMANTIC!
BESIDES, YOU ALWAYS SAID YOU WANTED TO BE ASKED OUT LIKE THAT.
RIGHT WAY... WRONG GUY.
IF YOU WERE IN MY SHOES, WOULD YOU BE HAPPY IF A LITTLE JUNIOR HIGH BRAT ASKED YOU OUT?
Clean look
Cute, you can leave him and then mope, too!
SHOP
SHOP
ASKED ME OUT? YEAH, RIGHT!
THE WHOLE TIME, I HAD MY EYES ON A CERTAIN SOMEONE ELSE.
But he just turned away...
I'm so done.
SO YOU WERE TWO-TIMING ME ALL ALONG! ALL THAT TIME YOU WERE TELLING ME HOW I WAS THE ONLY ONE, YOU WERE SAYING THE SAME THING TO MY LITTLE BROTHER!
YOU CHOSE HIM OVER ME. I HEARD YOU EVEN KISSED HIM ALREADY!
I BET THAT'S WHAT HE WAS THINKING...
AREN'T YOU GOING TO FINISH CLEANING?

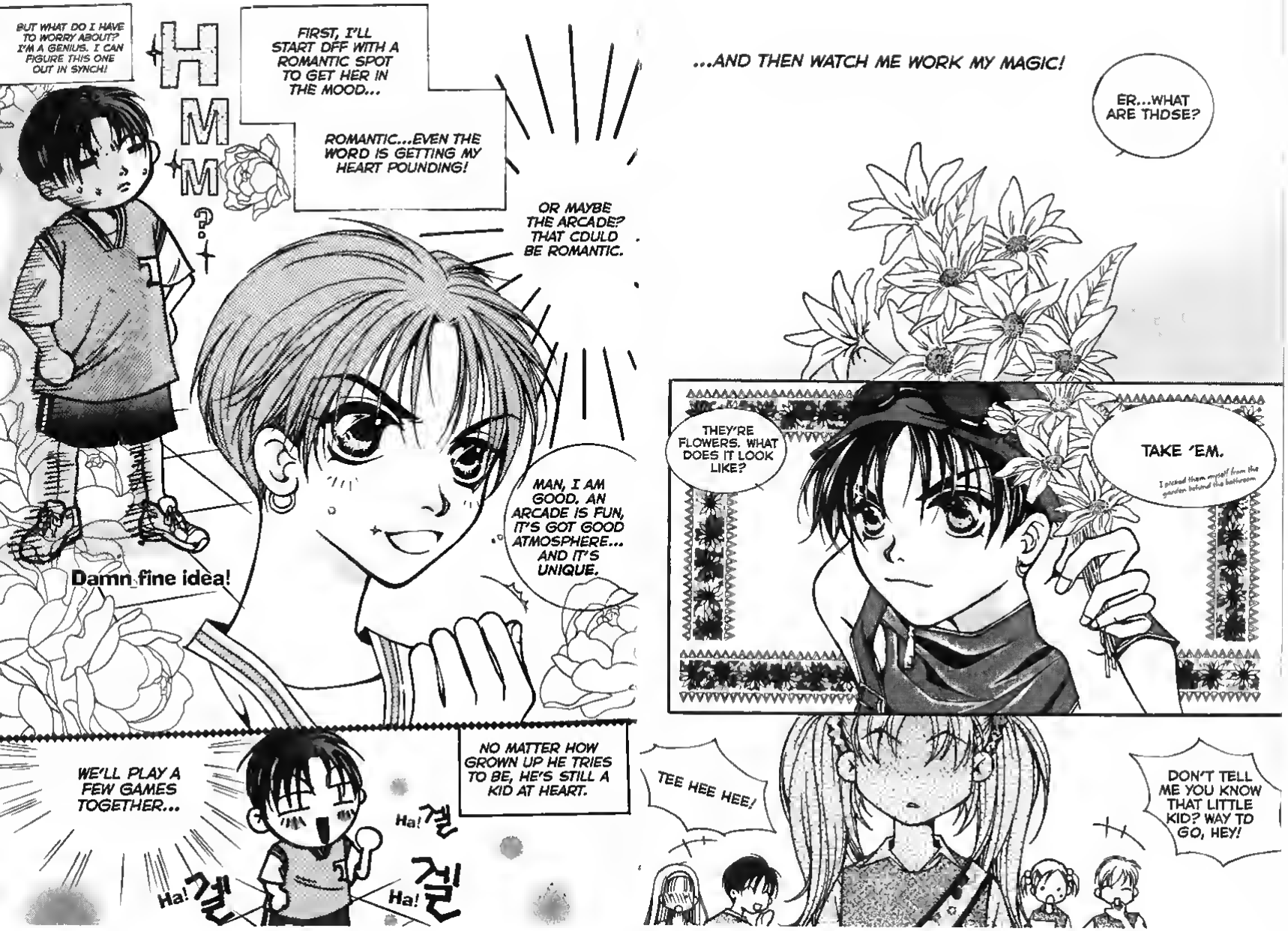
BUMP
OH
OH, NO! NAOMI!
WHAT IS SHE GOING TO DO TO ME NOW?
NAOMI, LOOK...I'M REALLY SORRY...

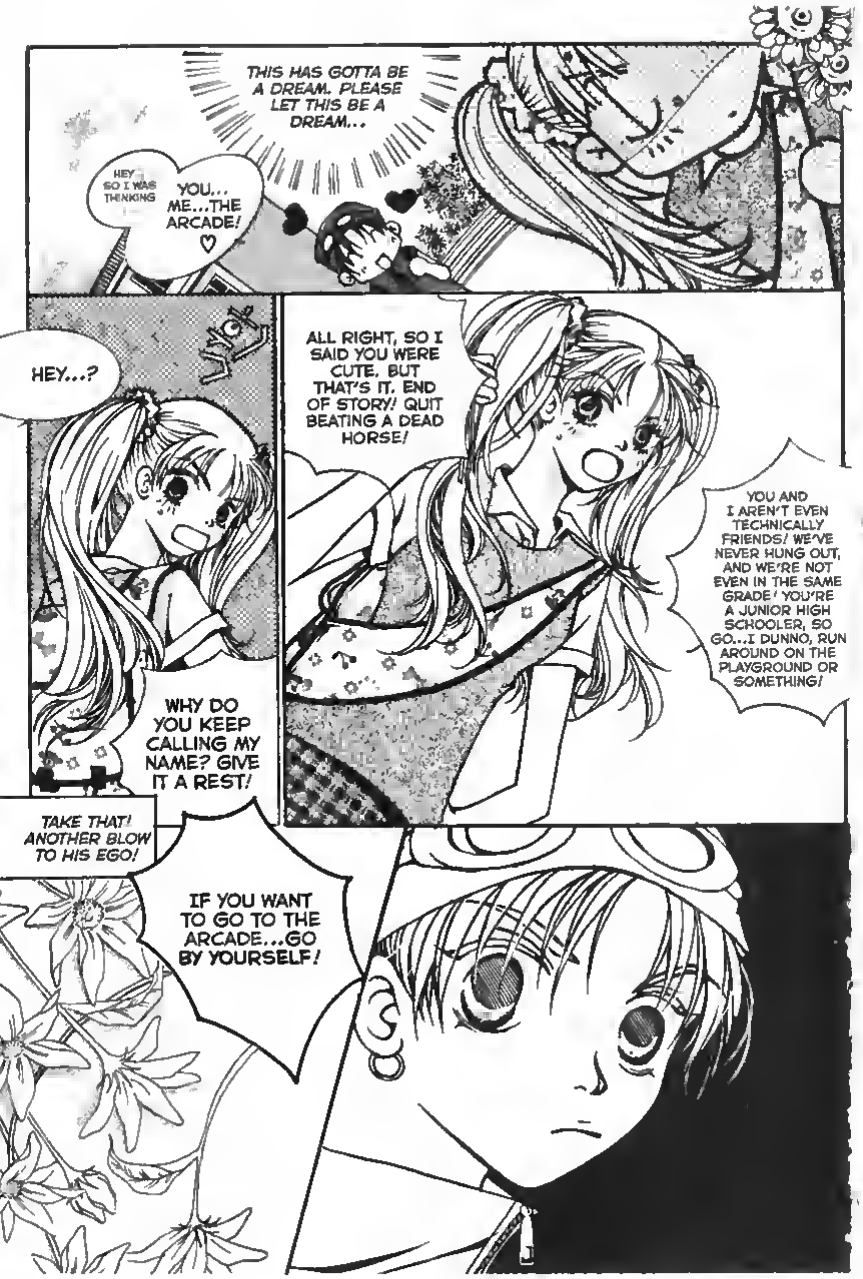

HO HO HO! OOPS, PARDON ME FOR STEPPING ON YOUR SHOE!
HUH?
I'LL BE SURE TO WATCH WHERE I'M GOING FROM NOW ON.
TA-TA 'TIL LATER, GIRLFRIEND! ♡
WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?
HO HO HO...
HEY, NAOMI.
WHY WERE YOU SO...FRIENDLY WITH HER?
YES? WHAT IS IT?
DUH! HEY'S DATING EZ'S LITTLE BROTHER! SHE COULD BE MY SISTER-IN-LAW ANY DAY NOW!
THEN, OF COURSE SHE'LL BE MY PERSONAL SLAVE AFTER THAT!
SISTER-IN-LAW... SISTER-IN-LAW...
YES, OLDER AND WISER SISTER-IN-LAW...

YOU MUST TAKE CARE OF OUR ANCESTORS AND LIVE WITH OUR FATHER ANO MOTHER. WE TRUST YOU.
YES, GREAT WISE SISTER-IN-LAW... JUST SAY THE WORO!
POOR, DELUSIONAL NAOMI...
WHAT?! C'MON! TELL US!
WHAT IS GOING ON INSIOE THAT HEAO OF YOURS?

WHAT DO YOU DO ON A DATE WITH A GIRL?
Ha ha ha!
IT SEEMS LIKE A GOOD DAY TO TEACH US
EEP!
YOU'RE KIDDING ME, RIGHT? YOU MEAN YOU SERIOUSLY DON'T KNOW?
DAMN THAT TWERP... HE'S TOTALLY SHOWING US UP!
OKAY, FOR STARTERS ...
... YOU GUYS CAN'T EVEN WALK TO THE BUS STOP WITHOUT BOASTING ABOUT HOW MANY GIRLFRIENDS YOU'LL HAVE, BUT WHEN IT COMES RIGHT DOWN TO IT, YOU'VE NEVER EVEN TALKED TO A GIRL! YOU JUST MOPE ABOUT, PLOTTING STRATEGIES AND LAME ASS PICKUP LINES IN YOUR HEAD WHEN...
Oh. I'm sorry. You wanted me to teach you what to do. My bad.
Well

DUDES? I THOUGHT WE WERE SUPPOSED TO PRACTICE OUR MOVES
LET'S ASK CHANG-SIK! HE'LL KNOW!
Now they're happy.
HE'S DEFINITELY THE MOST POPULAR ONE IN THE GROUP!
SO, YOU GUYS ARE TALKING ABOUT GIRLS AGAIN, HUH?
Pssht
HAVE NO FEAR, THE WISE CHANG-SIK IS HERE.
AND AS FAR AS GIRLS GO...I ONLY MESS AROUND WITH THE BEST.
MAN, HE'S A TOTAL PRO.
NUMBER ONE, INDULGE IN THE SWEET TALK. THEN IF YOU'RE OUT WITH A GROUP, HIT THE KARAOKE BARS, BUT MAKE SURE YOU GET HER ALONE BY SAYING YOU NEED SOME FRESH AIR. ORDER HER A DRINK--THEY LOVE THAT. IF THERE'S A LOT OF OTHER WANKS AFTER HER, YOU GOTTA TAP THAT ASS QUICK. PHYSICAL INTIMACY TO THE EXTREME. IF SHE SLAPS YOU, APOLOGIZE AND START ALL OVER.
But for the record I've never been slapped
IT CAN GET EXPENSIVE, BUT ALWAYS FIND SOME PLACE ROMANTIC. IT'LL SET THE MOOD. GIRLS DIG THAT SORT OF STUFF.
AND THAT'S IT. ANY QUESTIONS?
.....
..... D
WHAT'S "TAPPING THE ASS" MEAN?
ALL RIGHT, FELLAS. LET'S SEE WHAT YOU GOT.
WHOA, CHANG-SIK, NOT IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE!
He has a younger sister to worry about
REALLY? WHY IS THAT?
Like you don't know!
SHE-ESH!
WOULD YOU PLEASE TELL ME WHAT A TAPPED ASS IS?!
I'LL FIGURE IT OUT ON MY OWN!
Fine, ignore me
SO YOU AND HEY? REALLY?
WHAT, YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?
ND, THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL. I'M JUST SURPRISED. I THDUGHT SHE LIKED ME...
NIKE
HE THINKS HE'S THE FRICKIN' KING!
I'M GONNA MAKE HER MINE, JUST TO SEE THE LOOK ON HIS FACE!
His intentions are a bit twisted.
BUT HOW, HOW CAN I WIN HER OVER?

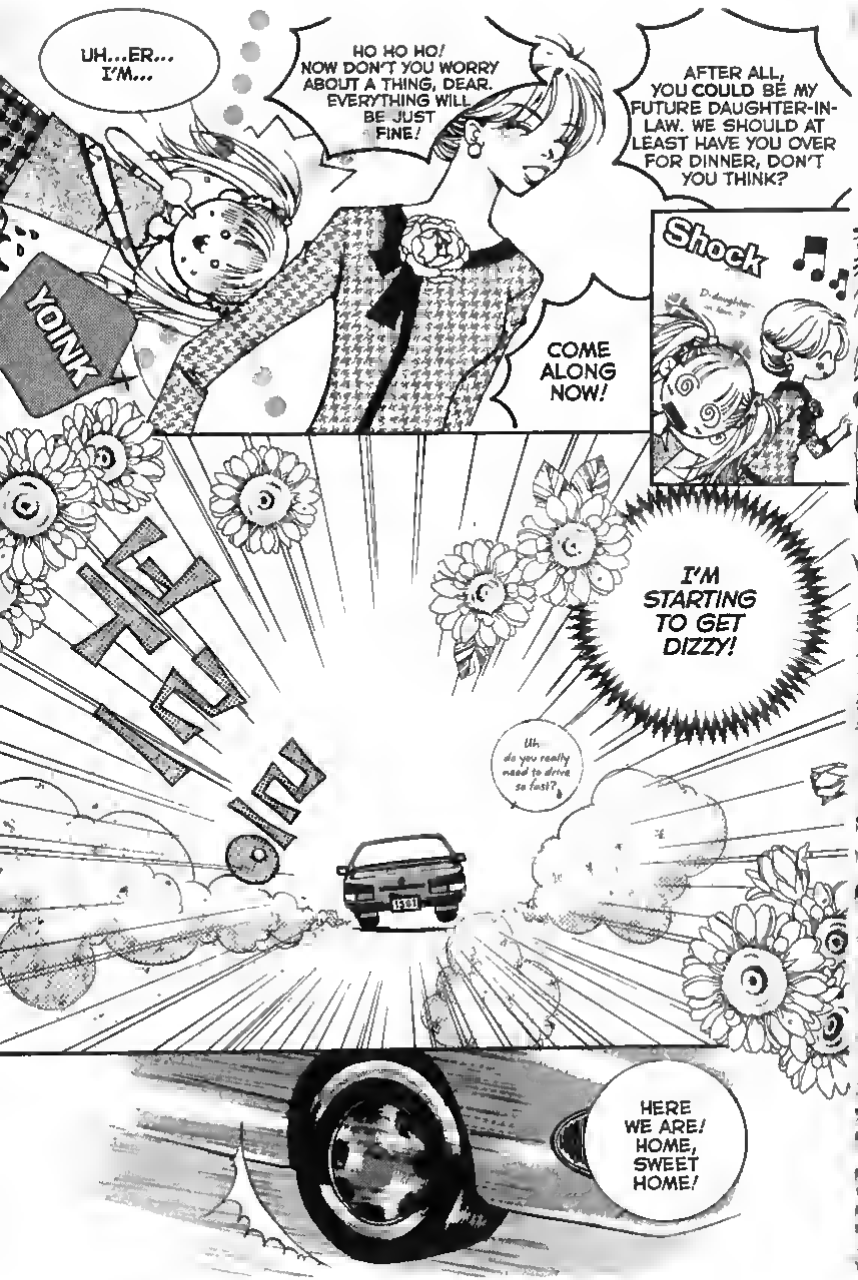

BUT WHAT DO I HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT? I'M A GENIUS. I CAN FIGURE THIS ONE OUT IN SYNCH!
HMM?
FIRST, I'LL START OFF WITH A ROMANTIC SPOT TO GET HER IN THE MOOD...
ROMANTIC...EVEN THE WORD IS GETTING MY HEART POUNDING!
OR MAYBE THE ARCADE? THAT COULD BE ROMANTIC.
MAN, I AM GOOD. AN ARCADE IS FUN, IT'S GOT GOOD ATMOSPHERE... AND IT'S UNIQUE.
Damn fine idea!
NO MATTER HOW GROWN UP HE TRIES TO BE, HE'S STILL A KID AT HEART.
WE'LL PLAY A FEW GAMES TOGETHER...
Ha! 겔
Ha! 겔
Ha! 겔
...AND THEN WATCH ME WORK MY MAGIC!
ER...WHAT ARE THOSE?
THEY'RE FLOWERS. WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?
TAKE 'EM.
I picked them myself from the garden behind the bathroom.
TEE HEE HEE!
DON'T TELL ME YOU KNOW THAT LITTLE KID? WAY TO GO, HEY!


THIS HAS GOTTA BE A DREAM. PLEASE LET THIS BE A DREAM...
HEY... SO I WAS THINKING...
YOU... ME...THE ARCADE!
HEY...?
ALL RIGHT, SO I SAID YOU WERE CUTE. BUT THAT'S IT. END OF STORY! QUIT BEATING A DEAD HORSE!
YOU AND I AREN'T EVEN TECHNICALLY FRIENDS! WE'VE NEVER HUNG OUT, AND WE'RE NOT EVEN IN THE SAME GRADE! YOU'RE A JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLER, SO GO...I DUNNO, RUN AROUND ON THE PLAYGROUND OR SOMETHING!
WHY DO YOU KEEP CALLING MY NAME? GIVE IT A REST!
TAKE THAT! ANOTHER BLOW TO HIS EGO!
IF YOU WANT TO GO TO THE ARCADE...GO BY YOURSELF!

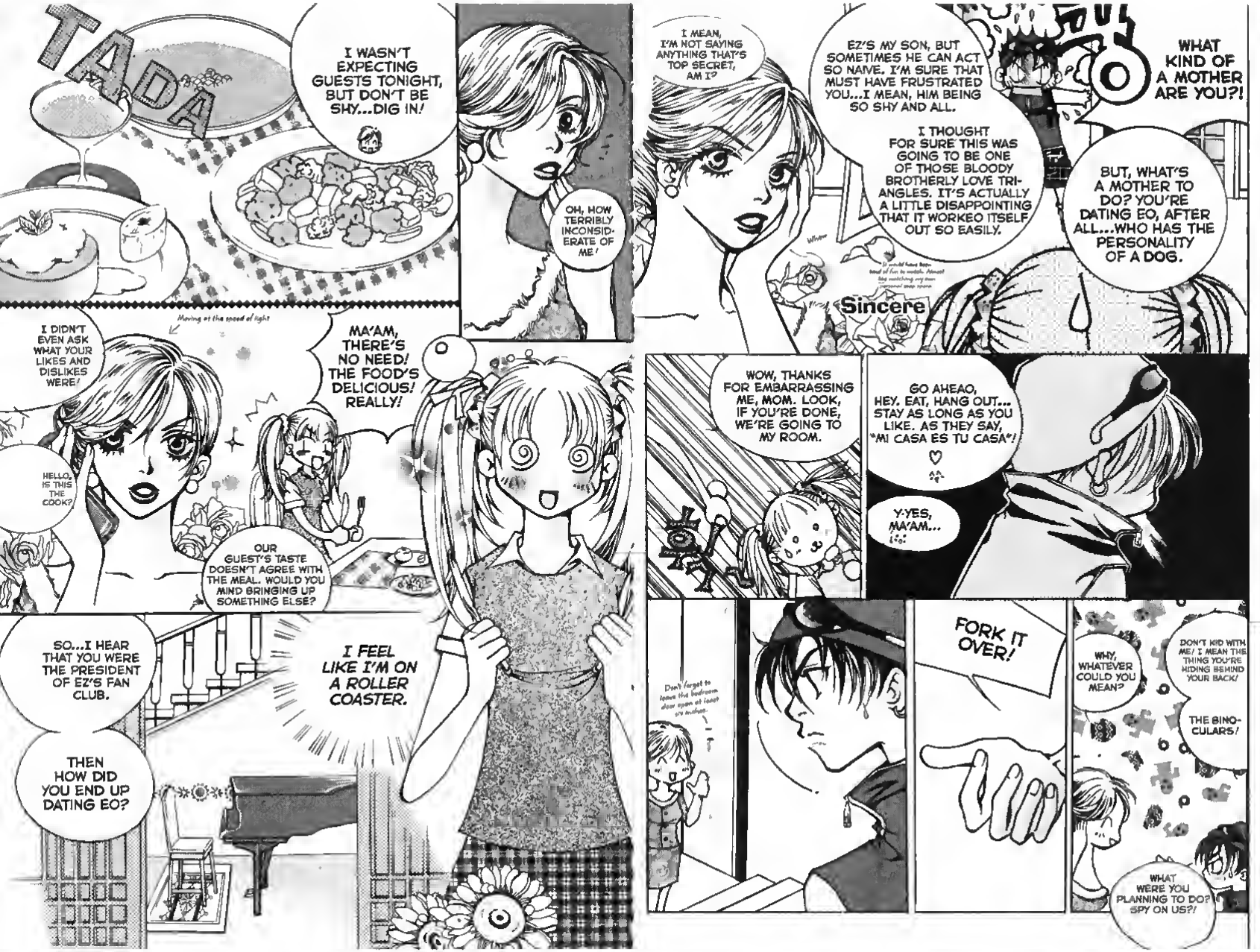
MAYBE... THAT WAS A LITTLE TOO HARSH.
D-DID SOMEONE...
...PUT YOU UP TO THIS? IS THAT WHY YOU'RE ASKING ME OUT?
WHY WOULD A GIRL IN HIGH SCHOOL EVER GO OUT WITH A JUNIOR HIGH KID LIKE ME?
I GUESS I LEFT MY COMMON SENSE BACK HOME THIS MORNING. I JUST THOUGHT BECAUSE YOU WERE SO NICE AND ALL...
UH, DELUSIONAL SOME? WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HIM?
OH... I GET IT NOW. YOU'RE RIGHT.
I'M REALLY SORRY FOR BOTHERING YOU.

...NOT!
LIKE I'D EVER SAY THAT!
GIVE THOSE FLOWERS BACK RIGHT NOW!
HEY! W-WAIT!
WE'VE WASTED ENOUGH TIME!
LET'S GO! ARCADE... NOW!
HELLOOO? EARTH TO EO! I NEVER SAID I WAS GOING WITH YOU, REMEMBER?
YOU'RE NOT LIKE EZ AT ALL! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU TWO ARE ACTUALLY BROTHERS!
BONK
W-WHAT? WHAT DID I SAY?
I'LL ONLY SAY THIS ONCE SO LISTEN UP.
DON'T YOU EVER...
...MENTION THAT STARD'S NAME IN FRONT OF ME AGAIN!

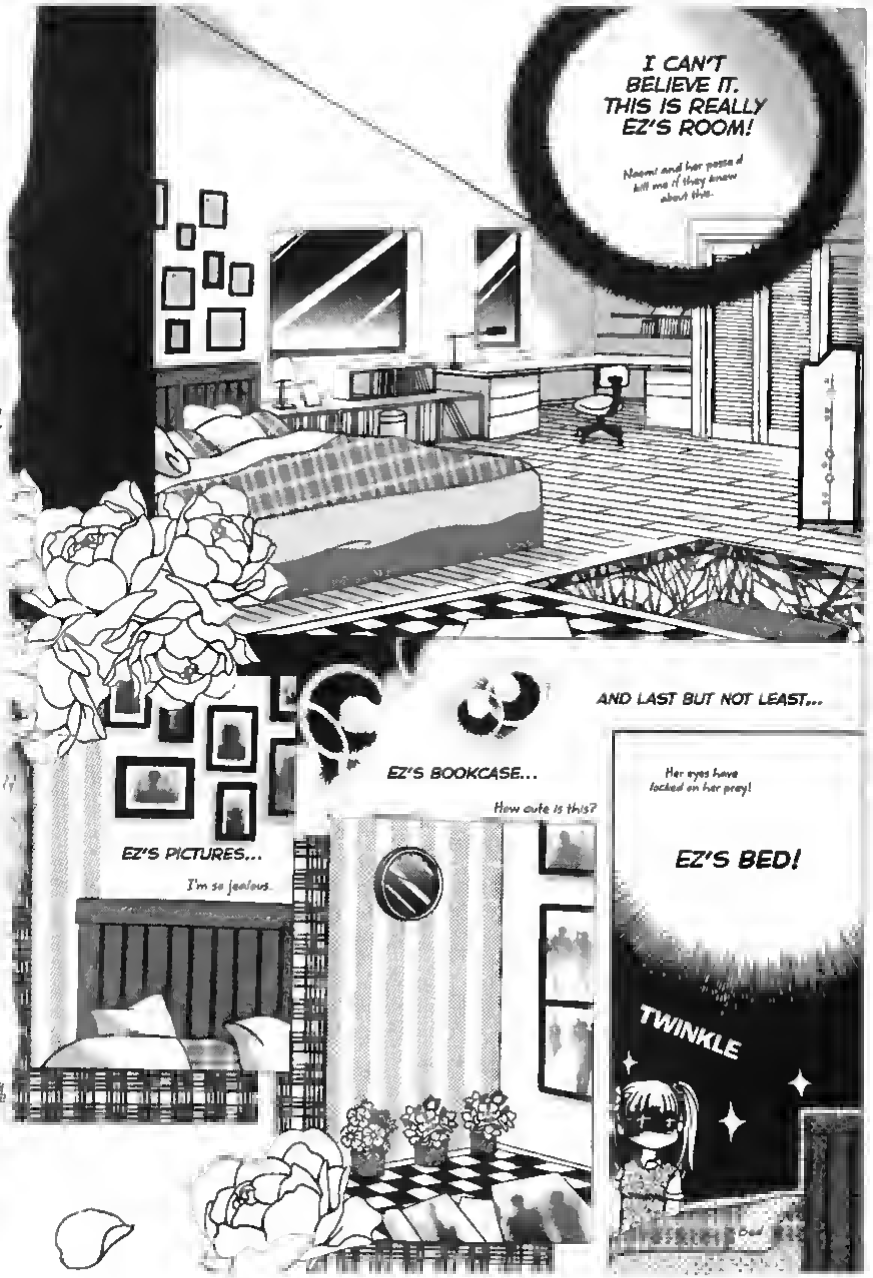
WHOA, WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT?
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'D BUST A FUSE JUST BY HEARING EZ'S NAME.
HE IS EZ'S BROTHER, RIGHT? SO WHAT COULD BE THE BIG DEAL?
I...I'M SORRY!
WHY AM I APOLOGIZING TO HIM?
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE APOLOGIZED SO QUICKLY.
I HEARD YOU THE FIRST TIME! BUT DON'T THINK I'LL FORGIVE YOU SO EASILY—
I'M REALLY SORRY!
REALLY, HOW MANY TIMES...
...DO I HAVE TO WARN YOU?
I DEMAND THAT YOU STOP...
...TORMENTING THIS POOR GIRL!
KEEP OUT OF THIS, YOU... YOU WITCH!
WAIT ...
YOU WILL ADDRESS ME AS "MOM"!
DID SHE SAY MOM? THEN THAT MEANS...
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A SPANKING, YOUNG MAN!
SO...
...WHAT WAS YOUR NAME AGAIN?
IS SHE REALLY EZ'S MOTHER?
Fainted
YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIM!
I'LL MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T BOTHER YOU AGAIN.
GROWL


UH...ER... I'M...
HO HO HO! NOW DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT A THING, DEAR. EVERYTHING WILL BE JUST FINE!
AFTER ALL, YOU COULD BE MY FUTURE DAUGHTER-IN-LAW. WE SHOULD AT LEAST HAVE YOU OVER FOR DINNER, DON'T YOU THINK?
YOINK
COME ALONG NOW!
Shock
I'M STARTING TO GET DIZZY!
Uh... do you really need to drive so fast?
VROOM
HERE WE ARE! HOME, SWEET HOME!

THIS HOUSE IS AMAZING!


TADA
I WASN'T EXPECTING GUESTS TONIGHT, BUT DON'T BE SHY...DIG IN!
OH, HOW TERRIBLY INCONSIDERATE OF ME!
I DIDN'T EVEN ASK WHAT YOUR LIKES AND DISLIKES WERE!
Moving at the speed of light
MA'AM, THERE'S NO NEED! THE FOOD'S DELICIOUS! REALLY!
HELLO, IS THIS THE COOK?
OUR GUEST'S TASTE DOESN'T AGREE WITH THE MEAL. WOULD YOU MIND BRINGING UP SOMETHING ELSE?
I FEEL LIKE I'M ON A ROLLER COASTER.
SO...I HEAR THAT YOU WERE THE PRESIDENT OF EZ'S FAN CLUB.
THEN HOW DID YOU END UP DATING EO?
I MEAN, I'M NOT SAYING ANYTHING THAT'S TOP SECRET, AM I?
EZ'S MY SON, BUT SOMETIMES HE CAN ACT SO NAIVE. I'M SURE THAT MUST HAVE FRUSTRATED YOU...I MEAN, HIM BEING SO SHY AND ALL.
I THOUGHT FOR SURE THIS WAS GOING TO BE ONE OF THOSE BLOODY BROTHERLY LOVE TRIANGLES. IT'S ACTUALLY A LITTLE DISAPPOINTING THAT IT WORKED ITSELF OUT SO EASILY.
WHAT KIND OF A MOTHER ARE YOU?!
BUT, WHAT'S A MOTHER TO DO? YOU'RE DATING EO, AFTER ALL...WHO HAS THE PERSONALITY OF A DOG.
Sincere
WOW, THANKS FOR EMBARRASSING ME, MOM. LOOK, IF YOU'RE DONE, WE'RE GOING TO MY ROOM.
GO AHEAD, HEY. EAT, HANG OUT... STAY AS LONG AS YOU LIKE. AS THEY SAY, "MI CASA ES TU CASA"!
Y-YES, MA'AM...
Don't forget to leave the bedroom door open at least an inch.
FORK IT OVER!
WHY, WHATEVER COULD YOU MEAN?
DON'T KID WITH ME! I MEAN THE THING YOU'RE HIDING BEHIND YOUR BACK!
THE BINOCULARS!
WHAT WERE YOU PLANNING TO DO? SPY ON US?!

There you go again with that crazy imagination. How often have I ever done that?
I'm not looking anything!
Fine, but I'm gonna charge you for invasion of privacy!
I CAN'T BELIEVE EZ GREW UP IN THIS HOUSE...
FROM WHAT I CAN TELL, HIS WHOLE FAMILY'S MESSED UP.
OH-HO! JACKPOT!
EZ
Not in
THIS IS EZ'S ROOM.
Gulp
I'M SURE THEY WON'T MIND IF I TAKE A QUICK PEEK.
Shine
brilliant!


I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. THIS IS REALLY EZ'S ROOM!
Naomi and her posse'd kill me if they knew about this.
AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST...
EZ'S BOOKCASE...
How cute is this?
EZ'S PICTURES...
I'm so jealous.
Her eyes have locked on her prey!
EZ'S BED!
TWINKLE
Dad

.....
DOESN'T EVEN NOTICE THE FLOWERS IN THE BACKGROUND.
I feel like I'm in heaven...
GRINNING LIKE A FOOL
YOU CERTAINLY LOOK HAPPY.
AND WOULD YOU MIND NOT DROOLING ALL OVER MY BROTHER'S BLANKET?

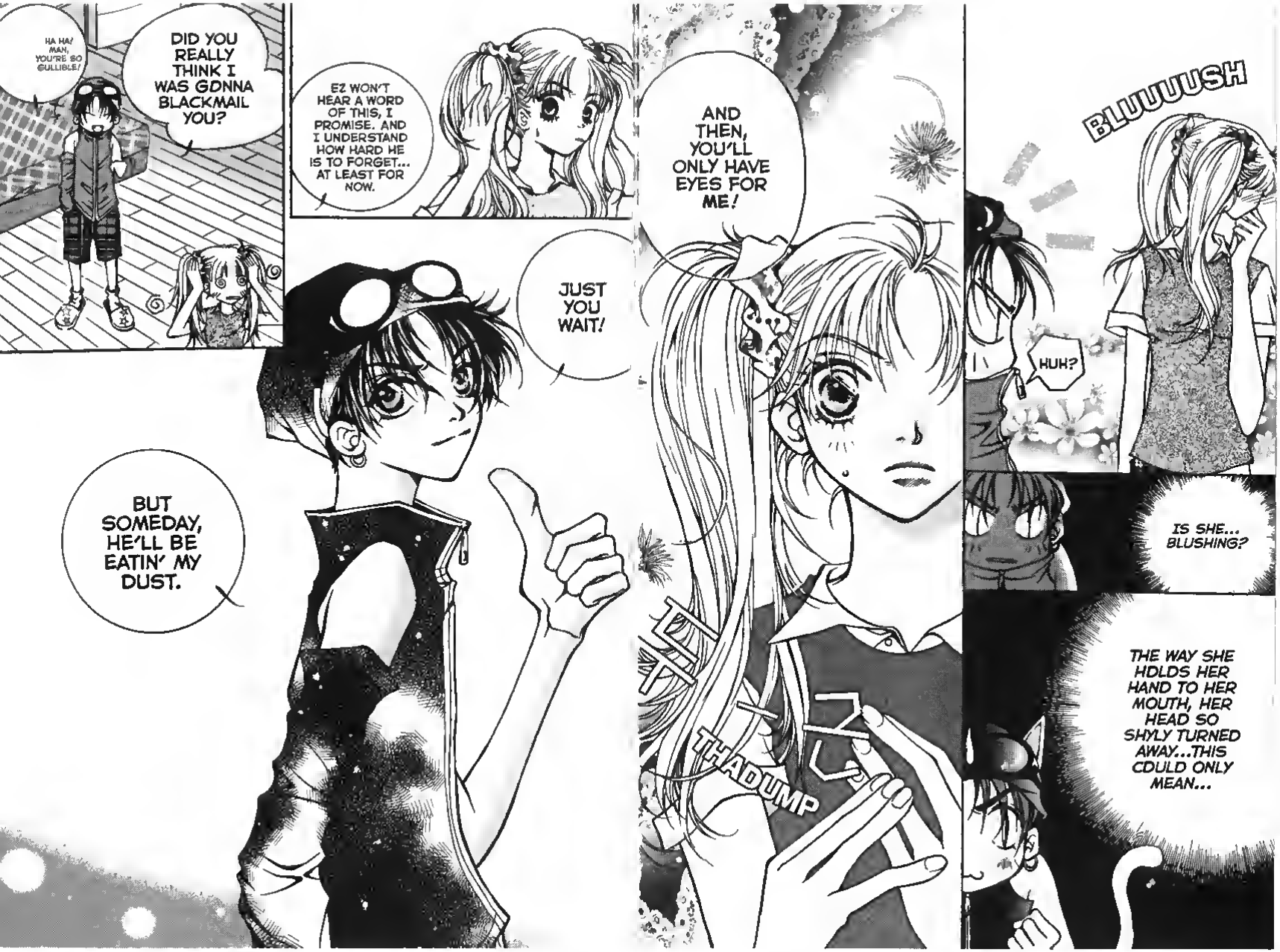
TOO LATE TO PLAY MAID WITH ME. YOU'RE FIRED!
MAN, IF ONLY I'D CAUGHT THAT DOPEY FACE ON CAMERA!
YOU WERE WORSE THAN LINUS, CLUTCHING THAT BLANKET FOR DEAR LIFE.
I WONDER WHAT EZ WOULD DO IF HE FOUND OUT ABOUT THIS
THAD-UMP
THAD-UMP
Y-YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TRY AND BLACKMAIL ME, ARE YOU?
YOU DON'T SCARE ME, YOU LITTLE SQUIRT!
Bring it!
PLEASE, I'M NOT PATHETIC ENOUGH TO RAT ON A GIRL.
HUH...?
YANK
YOK
GO AHEAD! TELL HIM. SEE IF I CARE!
DO YOU REALLY LIKE EZ THAT MUCH?
EVEN MORE THAN ME?
!
UH...

Y-YES!
OF COURSE I DO!
FOR A SECOND THERE, I WAS REALLY SCARED!
W-WAIT A MINUTE!
BUT I'M YOUR BOYFRIEND NOW!
AND I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU FORGET ABOUT THE OTHER GUYS FROM YOUR PAST!
LOOK, RUNT, THIS IS GETTING SO OLD! WHO SAYS YOU'RE MY BOY-FRIEND?
I DO.
YOU ALSO SAID YOU WERE ALLERGIC TO GIRLS!
WELL, MAYBE I'LL GET OVER IT.

AND MAYBE YOU'LL HELP ME GET THERE.
HUUUUG

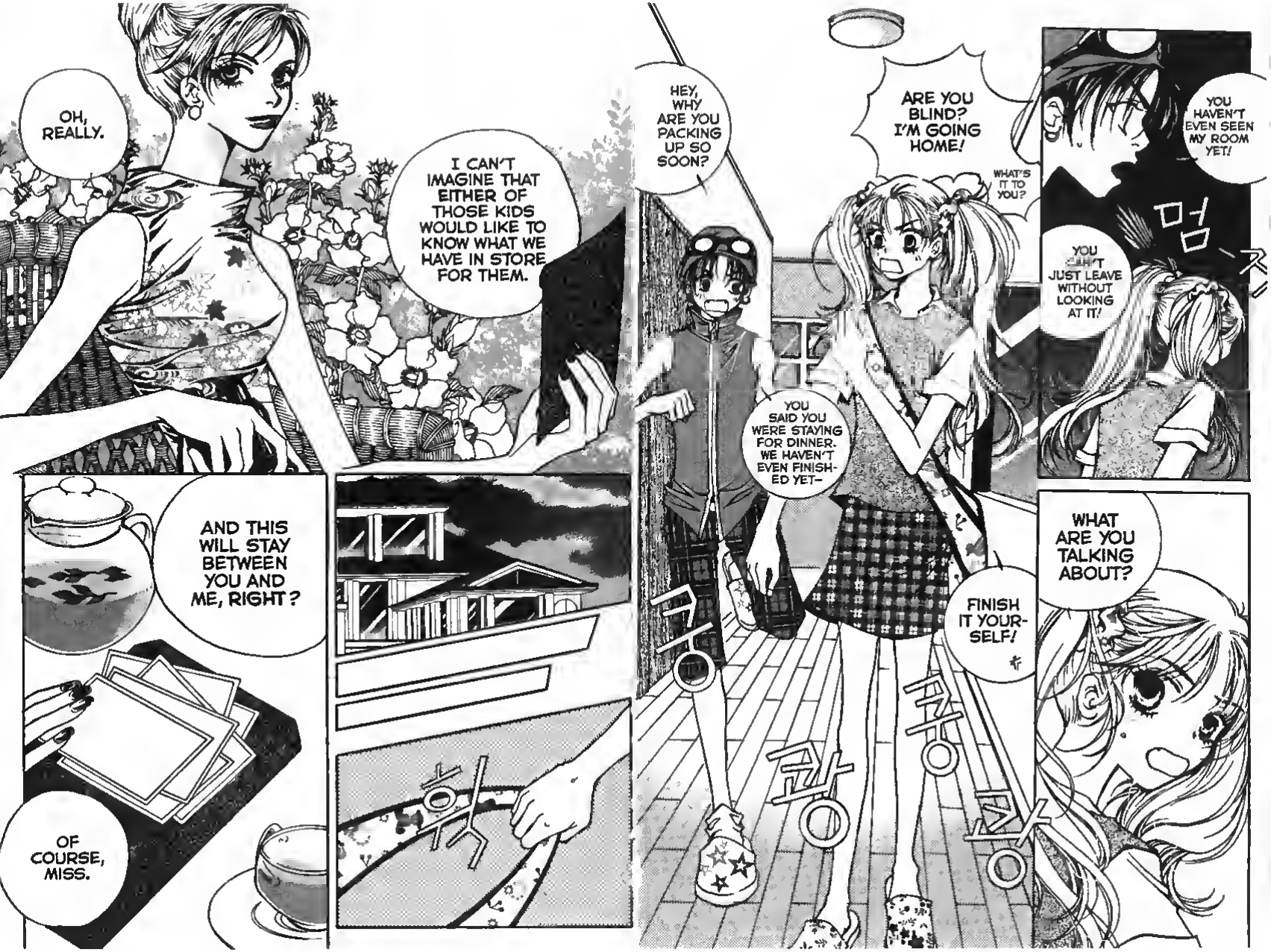
HEY!
DID YOU SEE THAT?
THIS IS AMAZING!
I HUGGED A GIRL, AND I'M NOT EVEN BREAKING OUT!
literally & painted
CHECK IT OUT! NOTHING. NOT A SINGLE RASH ON MY BACK!
I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW HAPPY THIS MAKES ME! I'M CURED!
ARRRGH!
NOW I CAN HUG YOU AS MUCH AS I WANT!
YUCK! GET YOUR DIRTY HANDS OFF OF ME!
SHEESH, DON'T ACT LIKE THIS REALLY GROSSES YOU OUT. I AM YOUR FUTURE HUSBAND, AFTER ALL.

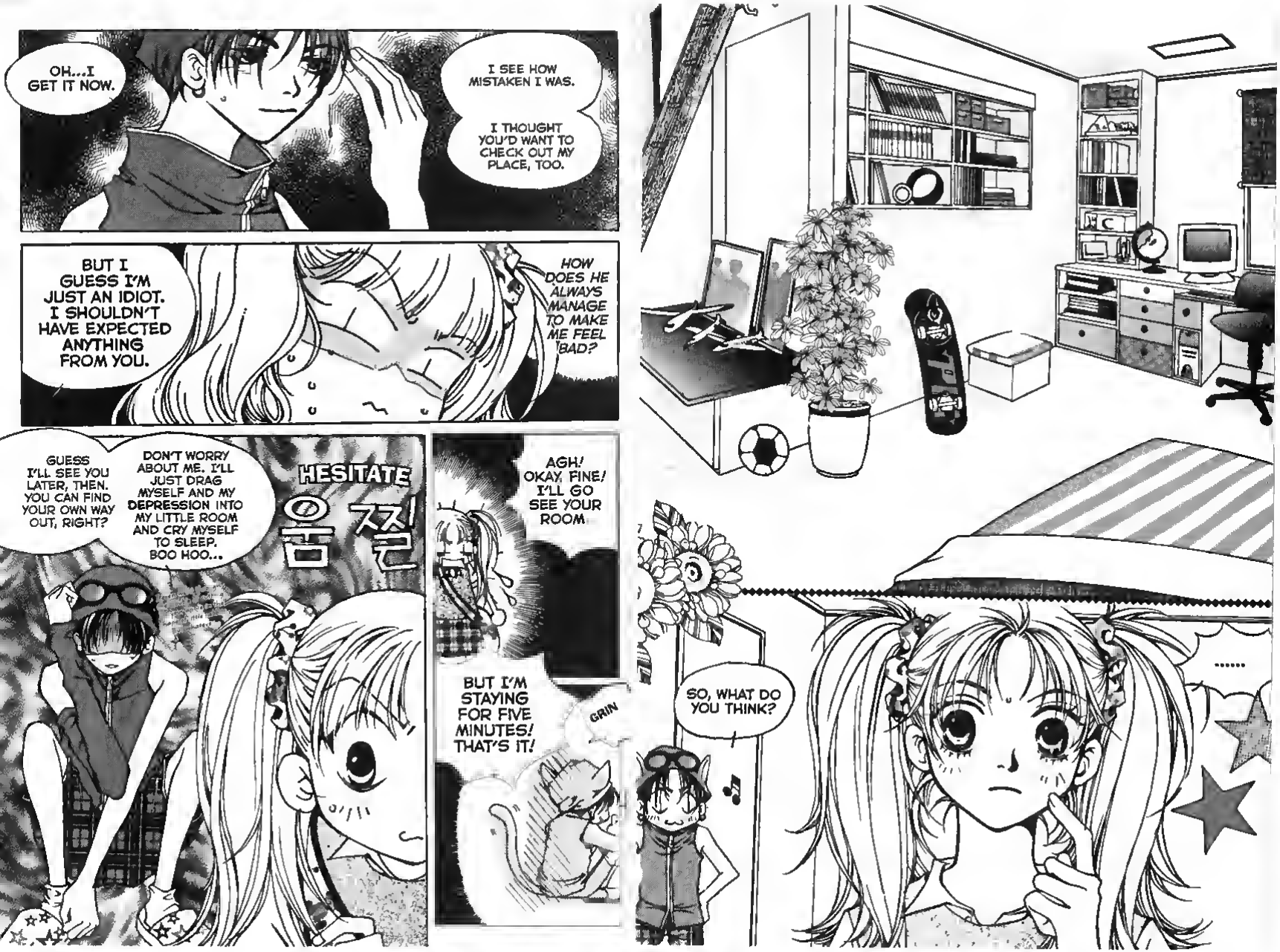
WHOA!
WHOA!
THUD
OWWIE...
YOU REALLY ARE SUCH A KLUTZ.
GIMME YOUR HAND.
OKAY, HEY, GET A GRIP!
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO MAKE EVERY-THING SO DRAMATIC?
CAN'T YOU JUST HELP ME UP?
I CAN GET UP BY MYSELF, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
EEP!
I SEE LONDON, I SEE FRANCE ...
DON'T STOOP TO HIS LEVEL!
JUST KIDDING. ♫


HA HA! MAN, YOU'RE SO GULLIBLE!
DID YOU REALLY THINK I WAS GONNA BLACKMAIL YOU?
EZ WON'T HEAR A WORD OF THIS, I PROMISE. AND I UNDERSTAND HOW HARD HE IS TO FORGET... AT LEAST FOR NOW.
JUST YOU WAIT!
BUT SOMEDAY, HE'LL BE EATIN' MY DUST.
AND THEN, YOU'LL ONLY HAVE EYES FOR ME!
THADUMP
BLUUUUSH
HUH?
IS SHE... BLUSHING?
THE WAY SHE HOLDS HER HAND TO HER MOUTH, HER HEAD SO SHYLY TURNED AWAY...THIS COULD ONLY MEAN...

...I'VE ALMOST WON HER OVER!
"AND THEN, YOU'LL ONLY HAVE EYES FOR ME!" IF ONLY THOSE WORDS WOULD FALL FROM EZ'S LIPS. IT'D BE UTTER BLISS.

HIS EFFORTS ARE COMMEND-ABLE...BUT THE KID STILL HAS A LONG WAY TO GO!
HO HO HO! YOU'D BETTER GROW A FEW MORE INCHES IF YOU PLAN ON GOING AFTER OLDER WOMEN.
UH, MISS, PERHAPS WE SHOULD RESPECT HIS PRIVACY... I'M SURE THE YOUNG MASTER WOULD NOT APPROVE OF IT.


OH, REALLY.
I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT EITHER OF THOSE KIDS WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT WE HAVE IN STORE FOR THEM.
AND THIS WILL STAY BETWEEN YOU AND ME, RIGHT?
OF COURSE, MISS.
HEY, WHY ARE YOU PACKING UP SO SOON?
ARE YOU BLIND? I'M GOING HOME!
WHAT'S IT TO YOU?
YOU SAID YOU WERE STAYING FOR DINNER. WE HAVEN'T EVEN FINISHED YET–
FINISH IT YOURSELF!
YOU HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN MY ROOM YET!
YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE WITHOUT LOOKING AT IT!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?


OH...I GET IT NOW.
I SEE HOW MISTAKEN I WAS.
I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO CHECK OUT MY PLACE, TOO.
BUT I GUESS I'M JUST AN IDIOT. I SHOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED ANYTHING FROM YOU.
HOW DOES HE ALWAYS MANAGE TO MAKE ME FEEL BAD?
GUESS I'LL SEE YOU LATER, THEN. YOU CAN FIND YOUR OWN WAY OUT, RIGHT?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. I'LL JUST DRAG MYSELF AND MY DEPRESSION INTO MY LITTLE ROOM AND CRY MYSELF TO SLEEP. BOO HOO...
HESITATE
음 ㅈㅣ ㄹ
AGH! OKAY, FINE! I'LL GO SEE YOUR ROOM
BUT I'M STAYING FOR FIVE MINUTES! THAT'S IT!
GRIN
SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
.....

IT'S... UH...NICE.
Half-heartedly
WHAT?! THAT'S IT?
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DO?
THERE YOU GO WITH YOUR DOUBLE STANDARDS AGAIN!
CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, BUT YOU WERE A LITTLE MORE EXCITED ABOUT EZ'S ROOM!
OH, WOW!
THAT POSTER IS SO COOL! IT'S DEFINITELY YOU!
JUST SAY SOMETHING NICE ABOUT A FEW THINGS
RAD-ICAL!
OOH! AND IS THIS A SKATE-BOARD?

YOU SURE PICKED UP AN APPRECIATIVE EYE QUICK.
THAT'S MY TONY HAWK POSTER...DEFINITELY MY MOST VALUABLE POSSESSION. HE'S THE KING OF THE SKATEBOARD WORLD, YOU KNOW. AND THAT'S WHAT I WANNA DO...THAT'S MY BIG DREAM! BETCHA' DIDN'T KNOW HIS SIGNATURE TRICK IS THE 720 TURN!
Y-YEAH? THANKS.
HE WAS BORN IN 1968, LIVES IN CALIFORNIA AND HAS BEEN SKATING FOR, LIKE, 22 YEARS. HIS NICKNAME IS BIRDMAN AND HE ALSO LIKES SURFING, SNOWBOARDING AND BASEBALL. AND...HIS SON RILEY IS(MY AGE. MAN THAT KID IS LUCKY." THE BEST SKATEBOARDER IN THE WORLD IS HIS DAD. HE'S PROBABLY LEARNING ALL THE TRICKS AND SKILLS FROM THE PRO, AND I BET HE'S GOT A KILLER COLLECTION OF EXPENSIVE SKATEBOARDS!
THE FIRST TIME I SAW HIS VIDEO...THAT WAS IT. THAT WAS WHEN I DECIDED I WAS GONNA BE THE GREATEST SKATEBOARDER IN THE WORLD, TOO!
AND I'M GONNA MEET HIM SOMEDAY AND HAVE HIM SIGN ALL MY BOARDS!
WHAT DO YOU THINK? COOL, HUH?

TRANSWORLD
skateboarding
WELL? PRETTY HOT, EH? THERE'S ONLY, LIKE, TWO PEOPLE IN THE WHOLE WORLD THAT CAN DO THIS MOVE.
WOW, HE'S THAT GOOD, HUH?
A 900?!
GOOD? DUDE, HE JUST LANDED A 900.
AND I BET HE'LL NAIL A 1080, TOO.

WHAT'S A 1080?
How do you...
OH COME ON, DON'T BE STUPID!
THAT'S TWO AND A HALF FULL ROTATIONS... IN THE AIR!
HE PRACTICED SO MUCH HE WOULD HAVE BLISTERS ON HIS HANDS. AND HE BROKE HIS RIBS AND LEGS AT LEAST A COUPLE OF TIMES EACH!
Right here.
I HAD A HAIRLINE FRACTURE ONCE.
REALLY? DIDN'T THAT HURT?
OF COURSE IT HURT. THE OLDER GUYS I PRACTICE WITH HAVE ALL HAD CASTS.

CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?
IF IT'S SO DANGEROUS... WHY DO IT?

WELL, BECAUSE ...
HEY, WHEN I JUMP...
WHEN I JUMP TOWARDS THE SKY ...

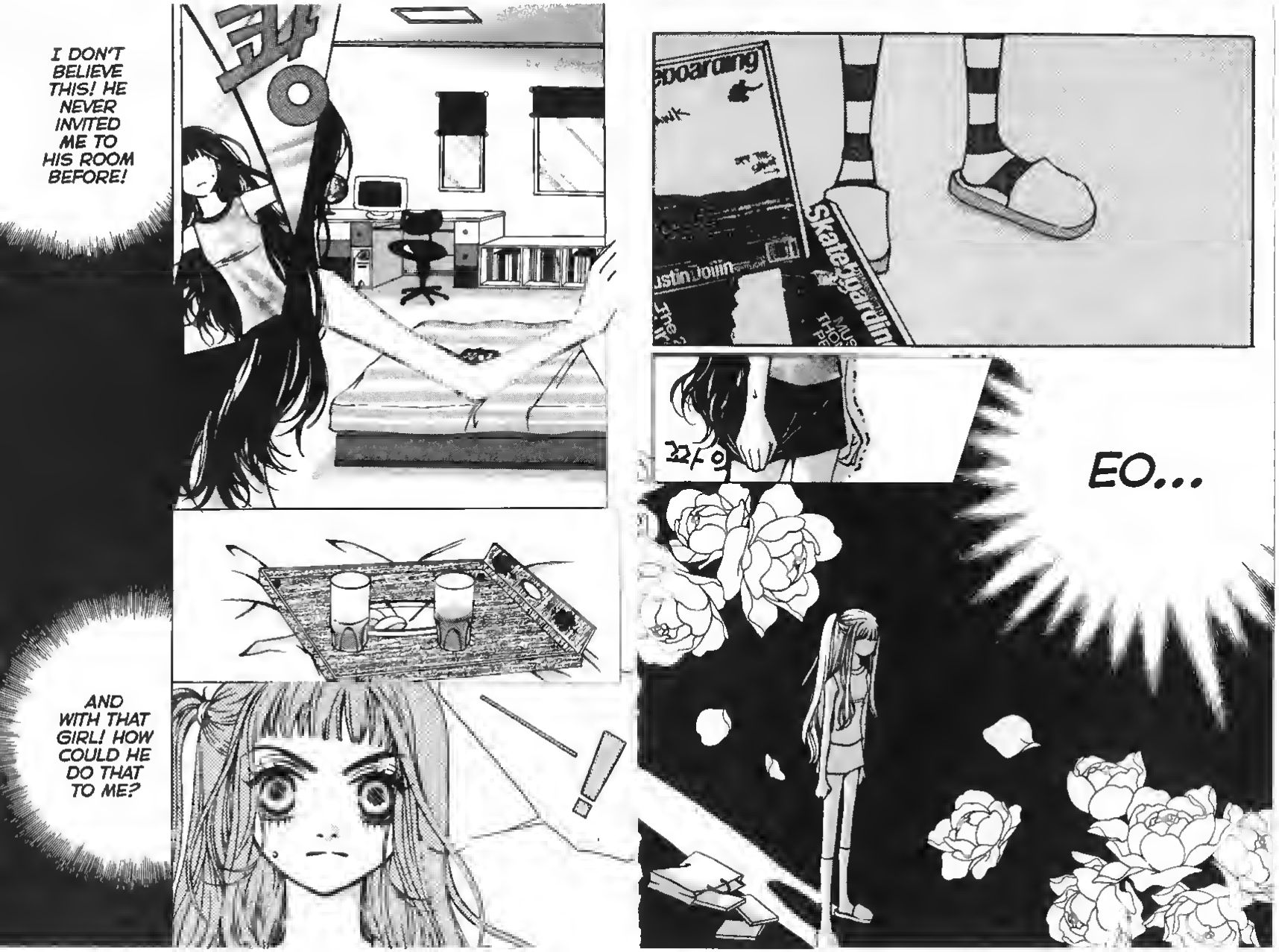
...I FEEL LIKE I HAVE WINGS. I FEEL TALL. I FEEL LIKE...
...AT THAT MOMENT, THERE IS NOTHING I'M AFRAID OF. LIKE I COULD TAKE ON THE WHOLE WORLD!

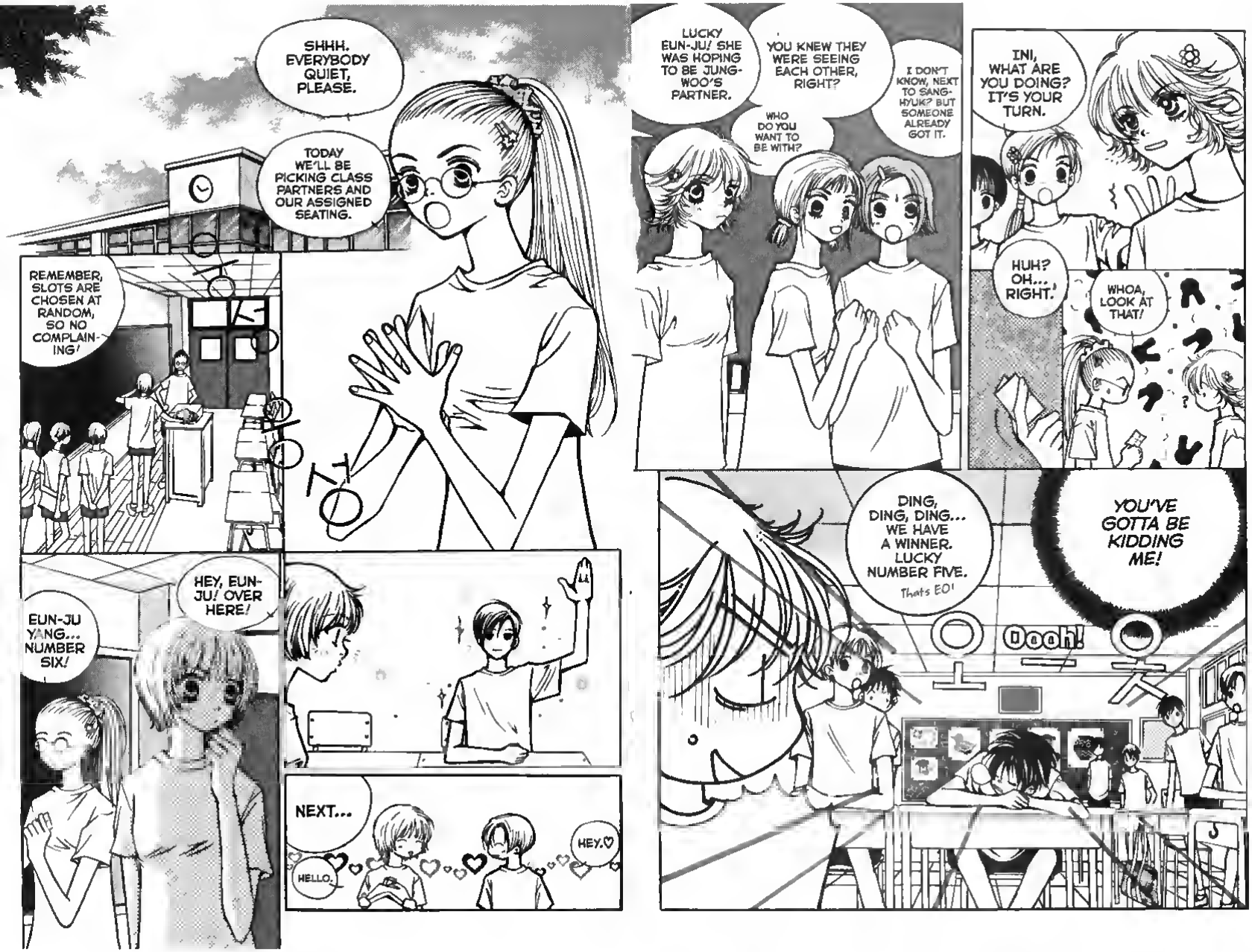
LIKE YOU CAN FLY, HUH?
WHY COULDN'T HE ACT LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME? HE'S SO PASSIONATE. I MIGHT HAVE ACTUALLY TREATED HIM BETTER.
SHOULD I TELL HIM THAT?
LIKE FLYING... EXACTLY! HOW DID YOU KNOW?
THAT'S...SO...SWEET!
I THINK IF YOU REALLY WANT TO BE THE BEST, THEN YOU WILL BE.
TOTAL
HA HA HA! YOU BET I WILL!
BIRD
SHOC
BECAUSE I'M...THE BIRDMAN!
FIGURES.
AND NOW THE MOMENT'S GONE. THERE HE GOES, SHOWING OFF AGAIN.
LIKE THIS, RIGHT? SWOOSH!
I REMEMBER YOU FLYING THE FIRST TIME I MET YOU.
DID I REALLY LOOK LIKE I WAS FLYING?
YEAH, ACTUALLY YOU DID.
I WAS KIND OF IMPRESSED.
WELL, THAT DIDN'T LAST VERY LONG.
THE BRAT ACTUALLY LOOKED PRETTY COOL FOR A MINUTE, BUT...

...NOW HIS EVIL TWIN IS BACK.
I won't say anything!
HE'S DEFINITELY NOT BOYFRIEND MATERIAL, BUT...
I DON'T KNOW... MAYBE THERE'S A GOOD GUY IN THERE SOMEWHERE.
HEY...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? I'M NOT YOUR PET!

Chapter 4: Mary

HELLO AGAIN!
I CAME OVER TO HANG OUT.
OH, MARY, IT'S YOU. COME ON IN!
HO HO HO. I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE.
I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU HAD A BIG FIGHT WITH EO OR SOMETHING.
NO, NOT AT ALL...
I MEAN HE DOES ACT UP WITH ME SOMETIMES, BUT NOTHING BIG.
OH, SHOOT. I BROUGHT OVER SOME SKATEBOARD MAGAZINES FOR HIM AND EVERYTHING
YOU DON'T THINK HE'S STILL IN HIS ROOM?
I'M SORRY, BUT EO'S ALREADY GONE OUT
WELL, HE WAS. HE WENT TO WALK HEY HOME. HE SHOULD BE BACK IN ABOUT 30 MINUTES.
HEY?
SHE WAS HERE?
OF COURSE. SHE HAD DINNER HERE AND THEN HUNG OUT IN HIS ROOM FOR A BIT. THEY ARE SO CUTE TOGETHER...
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
OOPS.
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE MENTIONED THAT.
Had a tendency to be blunt.
WELL, I'M SURE IT'LL BE OKAY


I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! HE NEVER INVITED ME TO HIS ROOM BEFORE!
AND WITH THAT GIRL! HOW COULD HE DO THAT TO ME?
EO...

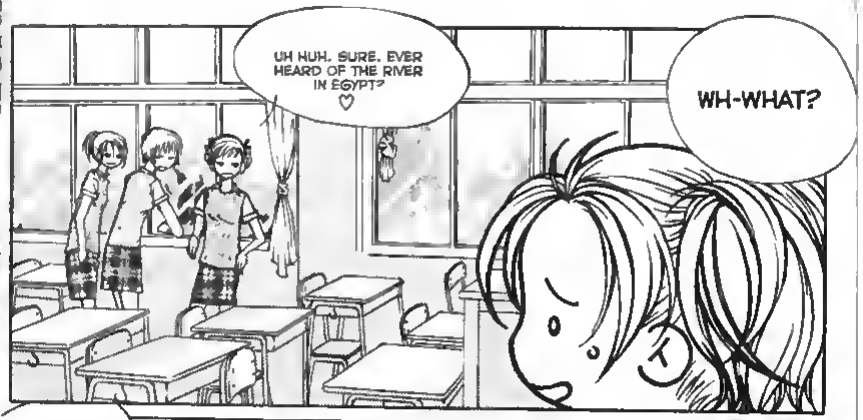

SHHH. EVERYBODY QUIET, PLEASE.
TODAY WE'LL BE PICKING CLASS PARTNERS AND OUR ASSIGNED SEATING.
REMEMBER, SLOTS ARE CHOSEN AT RANDOM, SO NO COMPLAINING!
HEY, EUN-JU! OVER HERE!
EUN-JU YANG... NUMBER SIX!
NEXT...
HELLO.
HEY.♡
LUCKY EUN-JU! SHE WAS HOPING TO BE JUNG-WOO'S PARTNER.
YOU KNEW THEY WERE SEEING EACH OTHER, RIGHT?
WHO DO YOU WANT TO BE WITH?
I DON'T KNOW, NEXT TO SANG-HYUK? BUT SOMEONE ALREADY GOT IT.
INI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? IT'S YOUR TURN.
HUH? OH... RIGHT.
WHOA, LOOK AT THAT!
DING, DING, DING... WE HAVE A WINNER. LUCKY NUMBER FIVE.
That's EO!
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!
Oooh!

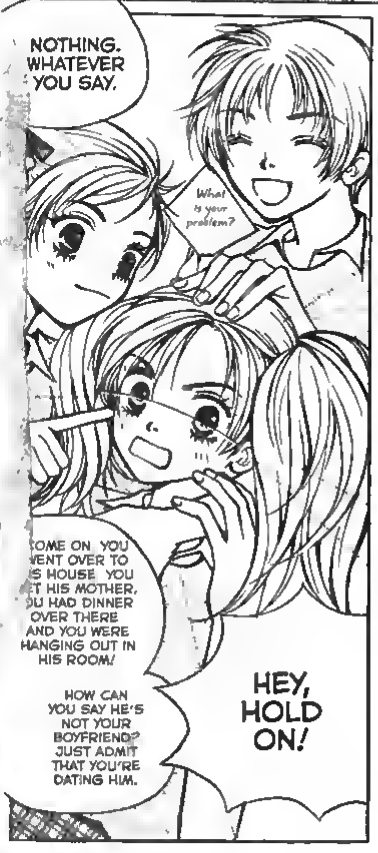
IS HE ASLEEP AGAIN?
AW, LET THE CUTEY REST. HE'S GONNA BE SO PISSED WHEN HE FINDS OUT HIS PARTNER'S A GIRL.
PLEASE!
CAN'T YOU CHANGE IT?!
Huh uh. I'd like to but the rules are the rules
I DON'T GET YOU. YOU'VE WANTED TO BE EO'S PARTNER FOREVER. WHAT'S WITH THE ATTITUDE?
IT'S A LONG STORY ...
I WAS ABLE TO HIDE FROM HIM UNTIL NOW, BUT IF I GET CAUGHT, I'M DEAD.
Huh?
ROLL
PAT
!
EEP!
CROSS THIS LINE...
TUK
TUK
...AND DIE!

☆ He forgot how she'd bullied Hey
ER...WHAT?
ARE YOU DEAF?
AND SOMEHOW YOUR DUMB ERASER IS ON MY DESK.
YOU'RE ALREADY BEYOND DEAD!
By this much.
AND THIS... IS NOW MINE!
THAT IS SO...
...SO IMMATURE! GIVE ME A BREAK, EO!
YOU'RE ON MY TURF NOW, SO WHAT'S YOURS IS MINE.
YOU DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT, RIGHT? CUZ FROM NOW ON, I'M CLAIMING EVERYTHING IN MY SPACE.
OH LOOK, YOUR SHOELACE CROSSED OVER, TOO! HA HA HA!
I THOUGHT DATING SOMEONE OLDER MIGHT CALM HIM DOWN.
ERGH! WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!
HE'S ACTING LIKE AN IDIOT AGAIN. AND TO A GIRL, NO LESS.
WAAAH!
WHAT? YOU CAN'T HANDLE IT? DO YOU WANT TO CHANGE SEATS?
NO ONE'S STOPPING YOU! GO ON! GET OUT OF HERE.
WE NEED SOME HELP HERE.
Has making it her ally
I'LL HANDLE THIS.
Huh?
OKAY
YANK
YOU?! WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
SAVE IT. I WANT YOU TO SHUT UP RIGHT NOW. NO BUTS ABOUT IT. OR ELSE...

KISS
YAAAARGH!
AND DON'T THINK I WON'T DO IT AGAIN.
Damn, she acts fast
AND THAT TAKES CARE OF THAT.
SHE IS SO AWESOME !!!
Totally amazing!
IT'S LIKE THEY'RE A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN.
I DON'T THINK EO'S INTERESTED IN HER. TRUST ME.
WELL, NOT LIKE ANY OF THAT REALLY MATTERS.
AT LEAST SHE MANAGED TO SHUT HIM UP.
EO HAS NO POWER WHEN IT COMES TO MARY.
Pah!
AND I THINK HE KNOWS IT EVEN MORE THAN SHE DOES.
EITHER WAY, THEY'RE FUN TO WATCH!
This is way too complicated
Too bad you boys don't get it do you?

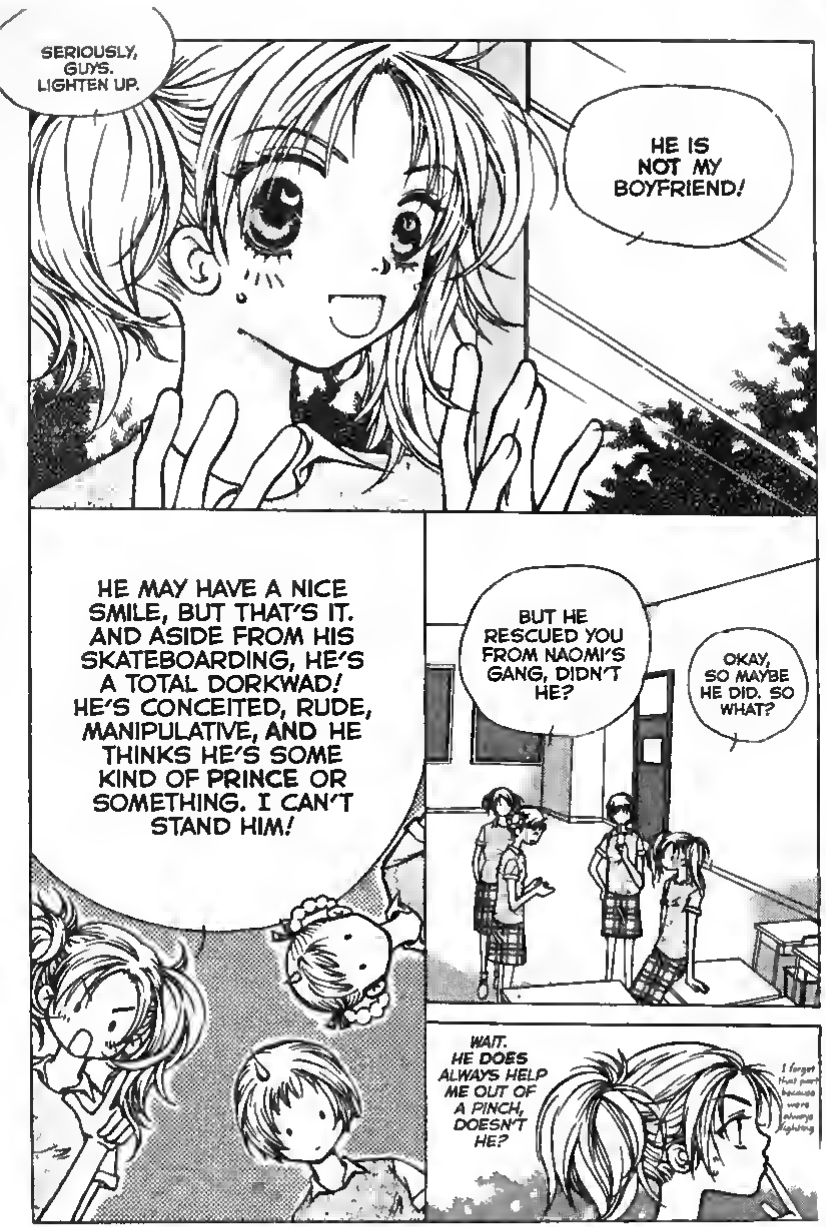
WHERE, WHERE? LET ME SEE. HEE HEE!
ONE OF THE JUNIOR HIGH'S P.E. CLASSES IS OUTSIDE.
AREN'T THEY JUST ADORABLE?
OH, ISN'T THAT HEY'S GUY?
HEY! YOUR BOYFRIEND IS OVER THERE!
They're like cute little babies.
WOULD YOU TWO PLEASE GIVE IT A REST? FOR THE MILLIONTH TIME, HE'S NOT MY BOYFRIEND!
THIS IS STARTING TO BUG ME.

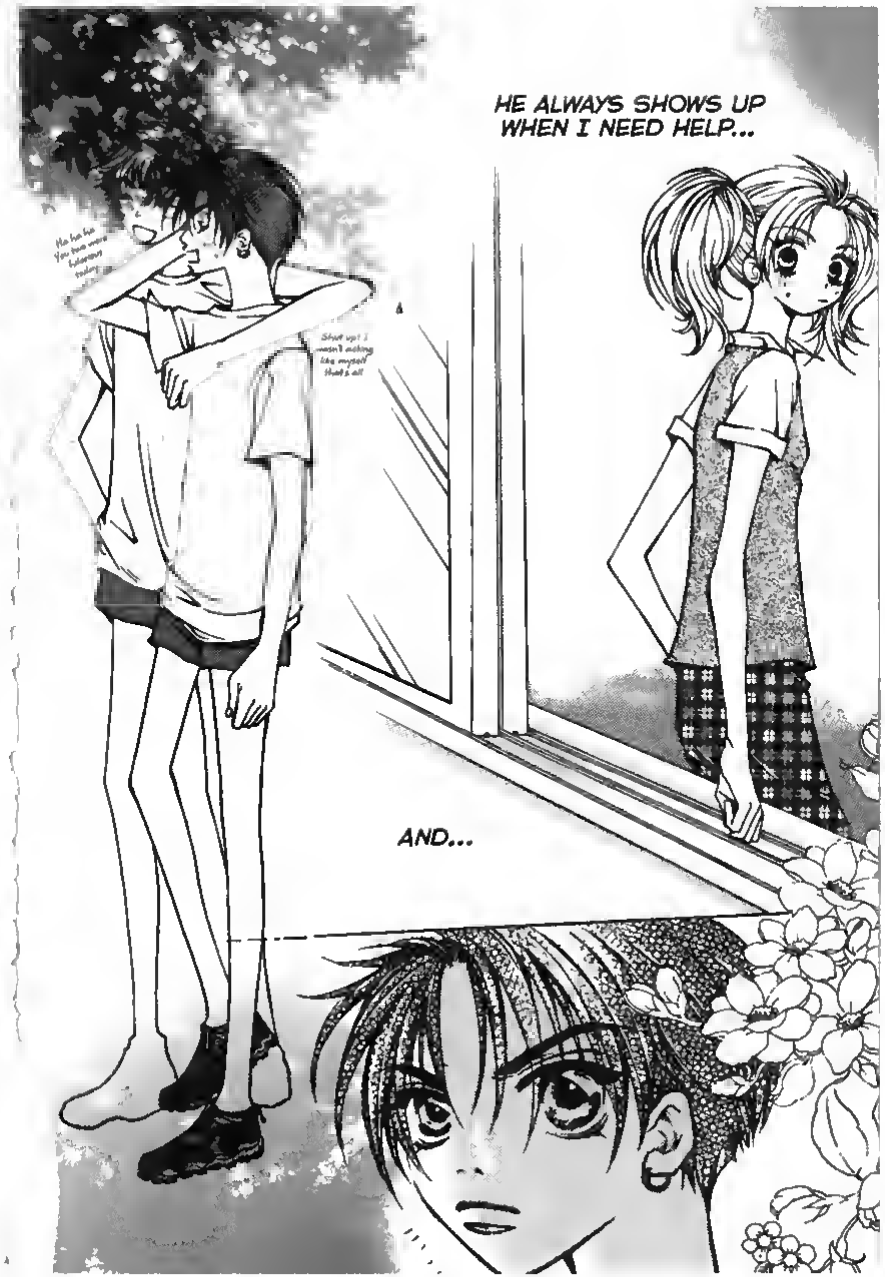

UH HUH. SURE. EVER HEARD OF THE RIVER IN EGYPT? ♡
WH-WHAT?


NOTHING. WHATEVER YOU SAY.
What is your problem?
COME ON YOU WENT OVER TO S HOUSE YOU T HIS MOTHER, U HAD DINNER OVER THERE AND YOU WERE HANGING OUT IN HIS ROOM!
HOW CAN YOU SAY HE'S NOT YOUR BOYFRIEND? JUST ADMIT THAT YOU'RE DATING HIM.
HEY, HOLD ON!

HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THAT?!
OH-HO! SURELY YOU DON'T UNDERESTIMATE US THAT MUCH! WE KNOW EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW!

JUNG-EUN! THAT TRAITOR!
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO HAVE SUCH A CUTE LITTLE BOYFRIEND? HA HA HA!


SERIOUSLY, GUYS, LIGHTEN UP.
HE IS NOT MY BOYFRIEND!
HE MAY HAVE A NICE SMILE, BUT THAT'S IT. AND ASIDE FROM HIS SKATEBOARDING, HE'S A TOTAL DORKWAD! HE'S CONCEITED, RUDE, MANIPULATIVE, AND HE THINKS HE'S SOME KIND OF PRINCE OR SOMETHING. I CAN'T STAND HIM!
BUT HE RESCUED YOU FROM NAOMI'S GANG, DIDN'T HE?
OKAY, SO MAYBE HE DID. SO WHAT?
WAIT. HE DOES ALWAYS HELP ME OUT OF A PINCH, DOESN'T HE?
I forget that part because we're always fighting

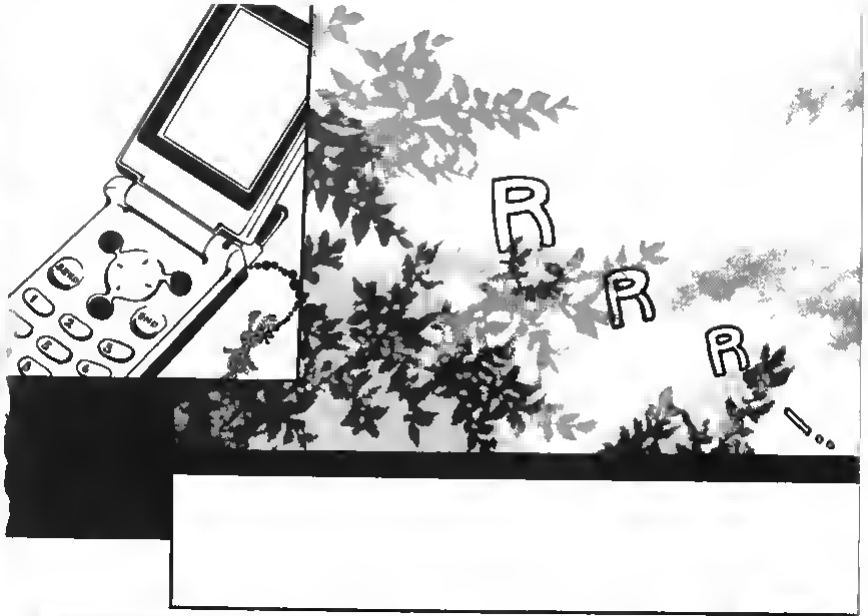

HE ALWAYS SHOWS UP WHEN I NEED HELP...
Ha ha ha. You two were hilarious today.
Shut up! I wasn't asking the myself that's all
AND...

IT'S HEY!
SHE'S SPYING ON ME, AWESOME!
OOH, YOU GOT DITCHED BIG TIME, EO!
WHAT? WHAT DO YA MEAN?
IS THAT GIRL REALLY YOUR GIRLFRIEND? WOW!
BOY, THAT DAME IS FIIIINE!
SHE'S A LOT TALLER THAN ANY OF US, TOO.
I BET SHE LETS YOU GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING BECAUSE YOU'RE YOUNGER. LUCKY DOG!
LETS ME GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING? HER?
HARDLY.
SHE'S A TOTAL KLUTZ! AND SO NAÏVE, I FEEL DUMBER JUST LOOKING AT HER! I MEAN, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HER IS EASIER THAN STEALING CANDY FROM A BABY! OH, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN SHE'S NOT STUBBORN AND A BIG CRY BABY! MAN, SHE'S MORE OF A LITTLE KID THAN WE ARE.
THEN, WHY ARE YOU DATING HER?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, MORON?
JUST LOOK AT HER.
SHE'S TOTALLY CUTE!
NO DUH!

Oooh!

HE ACTS LIKE DATING AN OLDER GIRL IS NO BIG DEAL.
AND HE CALLS HER CUTE.
AND I'VE HEARD HIM CALL HER DUDE. HE'S SO COOL!
He can be extremely cocky at times!
HEY, WHAT'S A GUY TO DO?
I'M ALREADY WAY IN OVER MY HEAD WITH THIS ONE.
CAN'T BACK OUT NOW.

WHAT-EVER ...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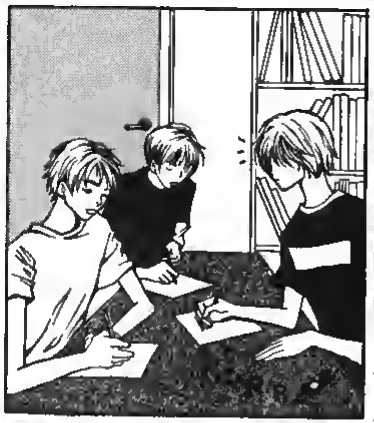


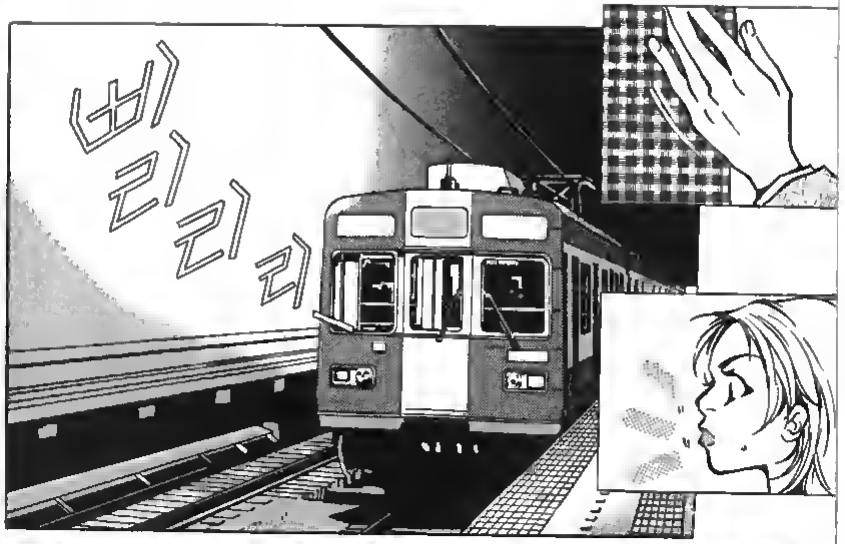
SORRY, COULD YOU LET ME GET THAT?
R R

YEAH?

EZ! OVER HERE! I NEED TO TALK TO YOU!
UH... SURE.

SO, WHAT'S UP? DID YOU WANT TO COME DOWN TO THE STUDIO TO SEE YOUR DAD?
NO...I WANTED TO SEE YOU.
COULD YOU BUY ME LUNCH? PLEEEEASE?
SURE THING. WHAT ARE YOU IN THE MOOD FOR?
I'M OKAY WITH WHAT-EVER!
Smirk
YOU JUST WATCH...

YOU'LL SO REGRET NOT CHOOSING ME.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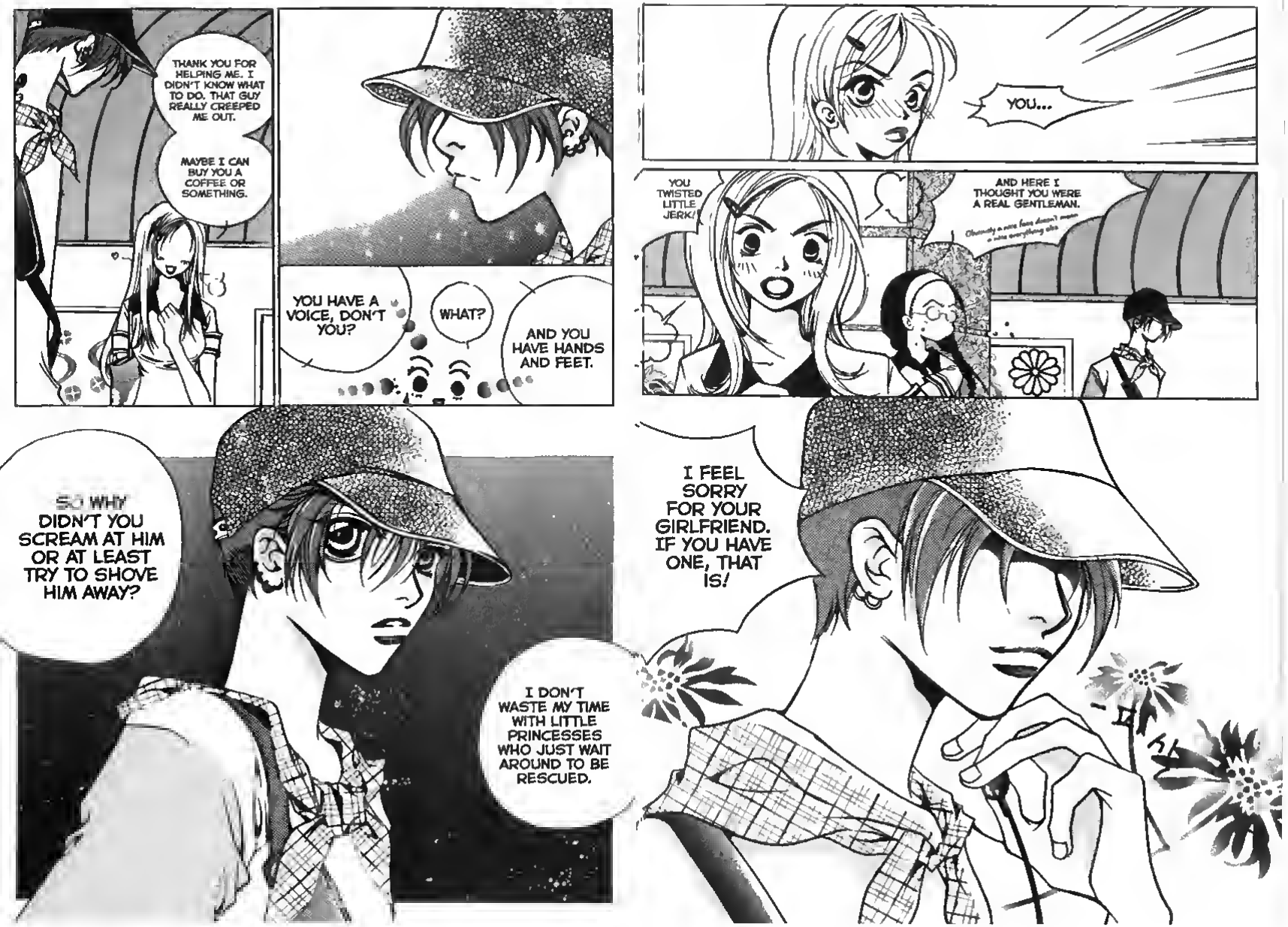
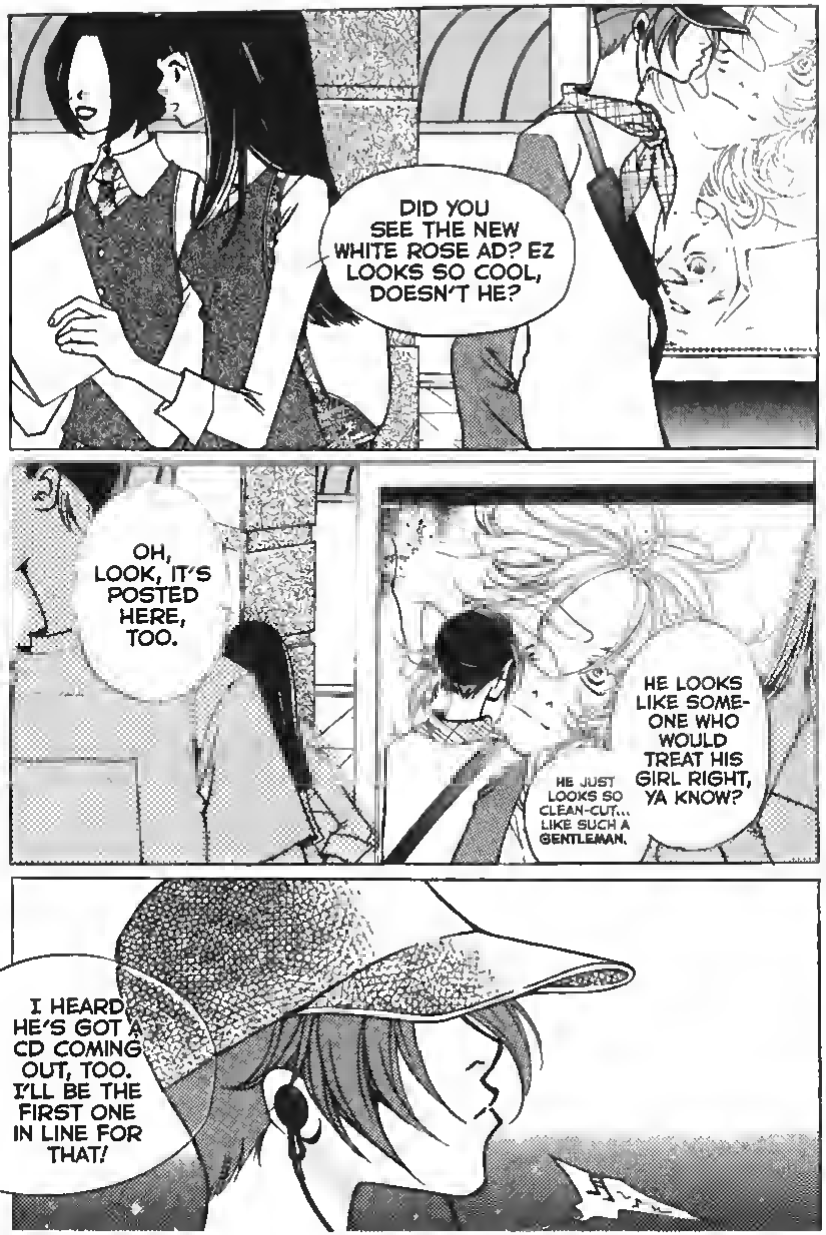
WHAT'S WRONG, JI-E?
N-NOTHING ...

Surprise
HEY, YOU IN THE BROWN SUIT WITH THAT UGLY TIE! AREN'T YOU A LITTLE OLD TO BE ACTING LIKE A PERVERT?

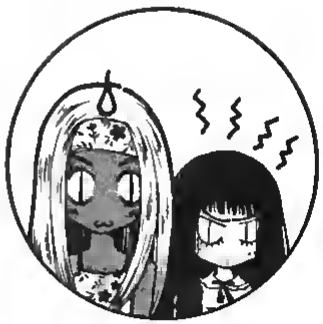
I DOUBT YOU CONFUSED HER FOR YOUR WIFE, SO HOW 'BOUT YOU TAKE YOUR MITTS OFF HER BUTT? SICKO.
WHAT...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THE TRAIN MOVED. IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT!
THE ACCIDENT IS YOU.
OOH, YOU ARE SO CAUGHT.
HEY, KID! WAIT UP!


THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. THAT GUY REALLY CREEPED ME OUT.
MAYBE I CAN BUY YOU A COFFEE OR SOMETHING.
YOU HAVE A VOICE, DON'T YOU?
WHAT?
AND YOU HAVE HANDS AND FEET.
YOU...
YOU TWISTED LITTLE JERK!
AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU WERE A REAL GENTLEMAN.
Obviously a nice face doesn't mean a nice everything else.
SO WHY DIDN'T YOU SCREAM AT HIM OR AT LEAST TRY TO SHOVE HIM AWAY?
I DON'T WASTE MY TIME WITH LITTLE PRINCESSES WHO JUST WAIT AROUND TO BE RESCUED.
I FEEL SORRY FOR YOUR GIRLFRIEND. IF YOU HAVE ONE, THAT IS!


DID YOU SEE THE NEW WHITE ROSE AD? EZ LOOKS SO COOL, DOESN'T HE?
OH, LOOK, IT'S POSTED HERE, TOO.
HE JUST LOOKS SO CLEAN-CUT... LIKE SUCH A GENTLEMAN.
HE LOOKS LIKE SOME-ONE WHO WOULD TREAT HIS GIRL RIGHT, YA KNOW?
I HEARD HE'S GOT A CD COMING OUT, TOO. I'LL BE THE FIRST ONE IN LINE FOR THAT!

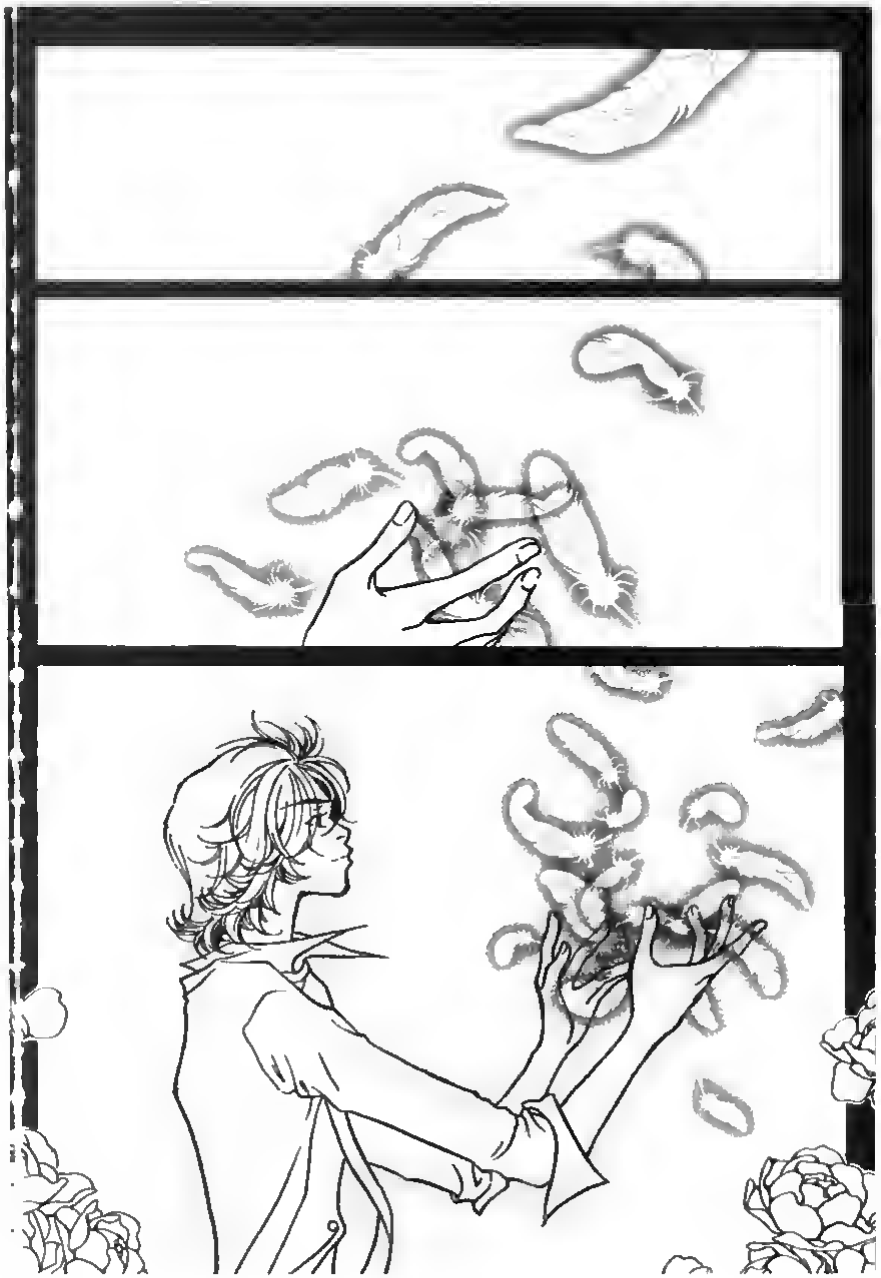
エスカレーター

WHAT A RIDICULOUS SMILE.
EZ RYU!
"I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU."
That's all for Peppermint Volume 2!
We'll see you again in Volume 3!♡



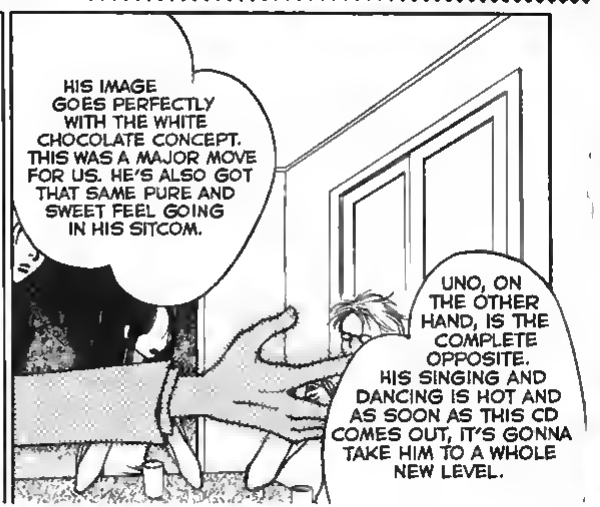
Bonus Chapter

You Are My Shining Star



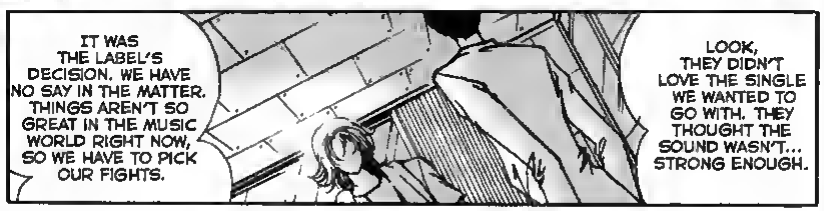
"I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU."
White Rose

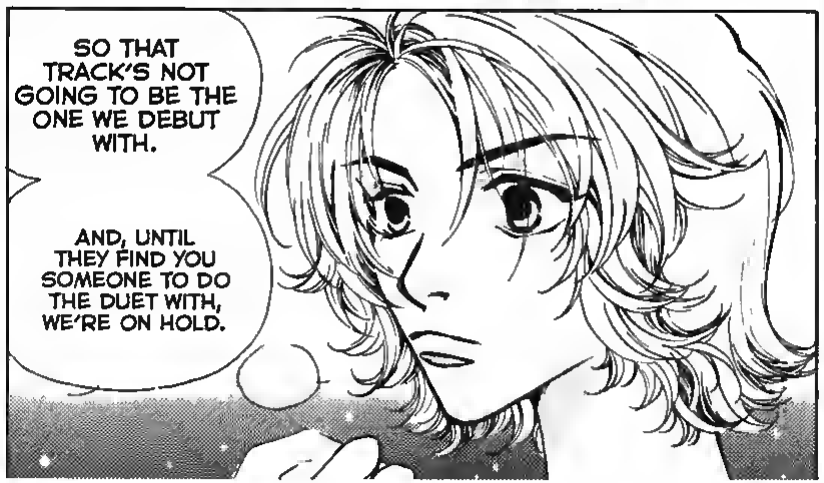
THIS WAS EZ RYU'S FIRST AD FOR "WHITE ROSE."

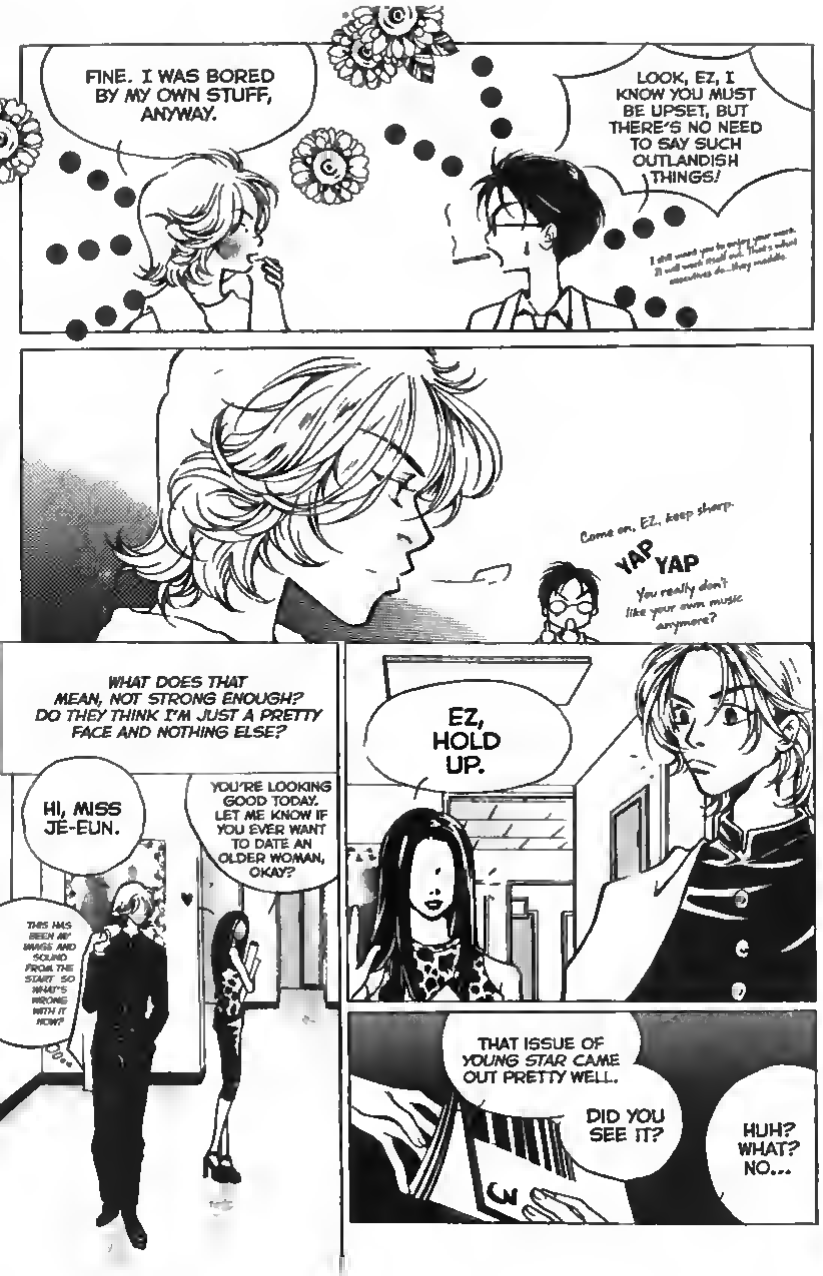

HIS IMAGE GOES PERFECTLY WITH THE WHITE CHOCOLATE CONCEPT. THIS WAS A MAJOR MOVE FOR US. HE'S ALSO GOT THAT SAME PURE AND SWEET FEEL GOING IN HIS SITCOM.
UNO, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE. HIS SINGING AND DANCING IS HOT AND AS SOON AS THIS CD COMES OUT, IT'S GONNA TAKE HIM TO A WHOLE NEW LEVEL.

IT'S TOO WEAK!

THEY WANT ME TO DO A DUET?


IT WAS THE LABEL'S DECISION. WE HAVE NO SAY IN THE MATTER. THINGS AREN'T SO GREAT IN THE MUSIC WORLD RIGHT NOW, SO WE HAVE TO PICK OUR FIGHTS.
LOOK, THEY DIDN'T LOVE THE SINGLE WE WANTED TO GO WITH. THEY THOUGHT THE SOUND WASN'T... STRONG ENOUGH.


SO THAT TRACK'S NOT GOING TO BE THE ONE WE DEBUT WITH.
AND, UNTIL THEY FIND YOU SOMEONE TO DO THE DUET WITH, WE'RE ON HOLD.


FINE. I WAS BORED BY MY OWN STUFF, ANYWAY.
LOOK, EZ, I KNOW YOU MUST BE UPSET, BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO SAY SUCH OUTLANDISH THINGS!
I still want you to enjoy your work. It will work itself out. That's what executives do...they meddle.
Come on, EZ, keep sharp.
YAP YAP
You really don't like your own music anymore?
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, NOT STRONG ENOUGH? DO THEY THINK I'M JUST A PRETTY FACE AND NOTHING ELSE?
HI, MISS JE-EUN.
YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD TODAY. LET ME KNOW IF YOU EVER WANT TO DATE AN OLDER WOMAN, OKAY?
THIS HAS BEEN MY IMAGE AND SOUND FROM THE START. SO WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT NOW?
EZ, HOLD UP.
THAT ISSUE OF YOUNG STAR CAME OUT PRETTY WELL.
DID YOU SEE IT?
HUH? WHAT? NO...

I'M SORRY ABOUT THE LABEL PUSHING YOUR RELEASE DATE. INDEFINITELY, HUH?
.....
HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT? I JUST FOUND OUT.
THAT'S HOW THE MUSIC BUSINESS WORKS, HONEY.
깔깔
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT BY NOW.
THINK IT OVER! MAYBE YOU SHOULD CONSIDER CHANGING YOUR STYLE A BIT... GETTING AWAY FROM THAT CLEAN-CUT IMAGE.
THAT'S THE WAY THAT WORLD WORKS. DON'T BE TOO DISAPPOINTED, OKAY?
THEY WANT DANCE TRACKS... SOMETHING WITH AN EDGE.
OF COURSE ...

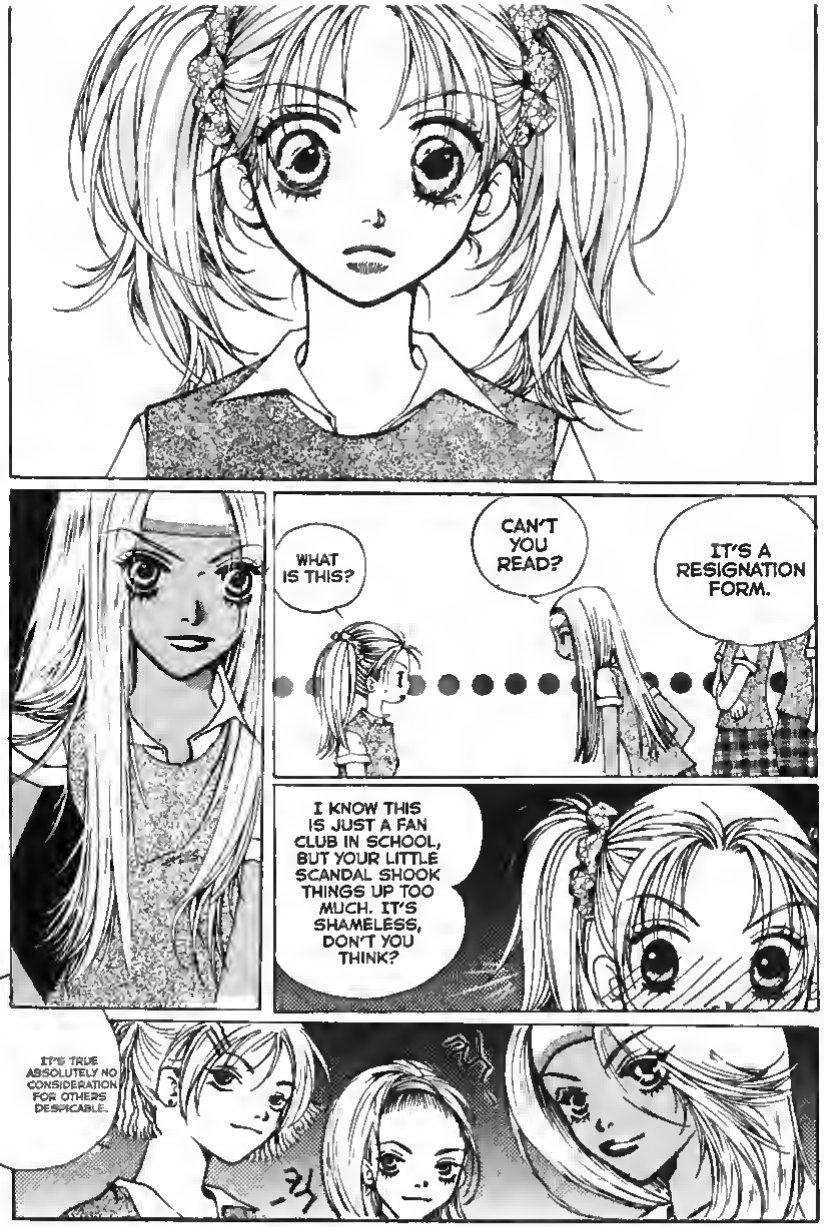
...I LIKE THAT SIDE OF YOU BETTER, BUT... ♡

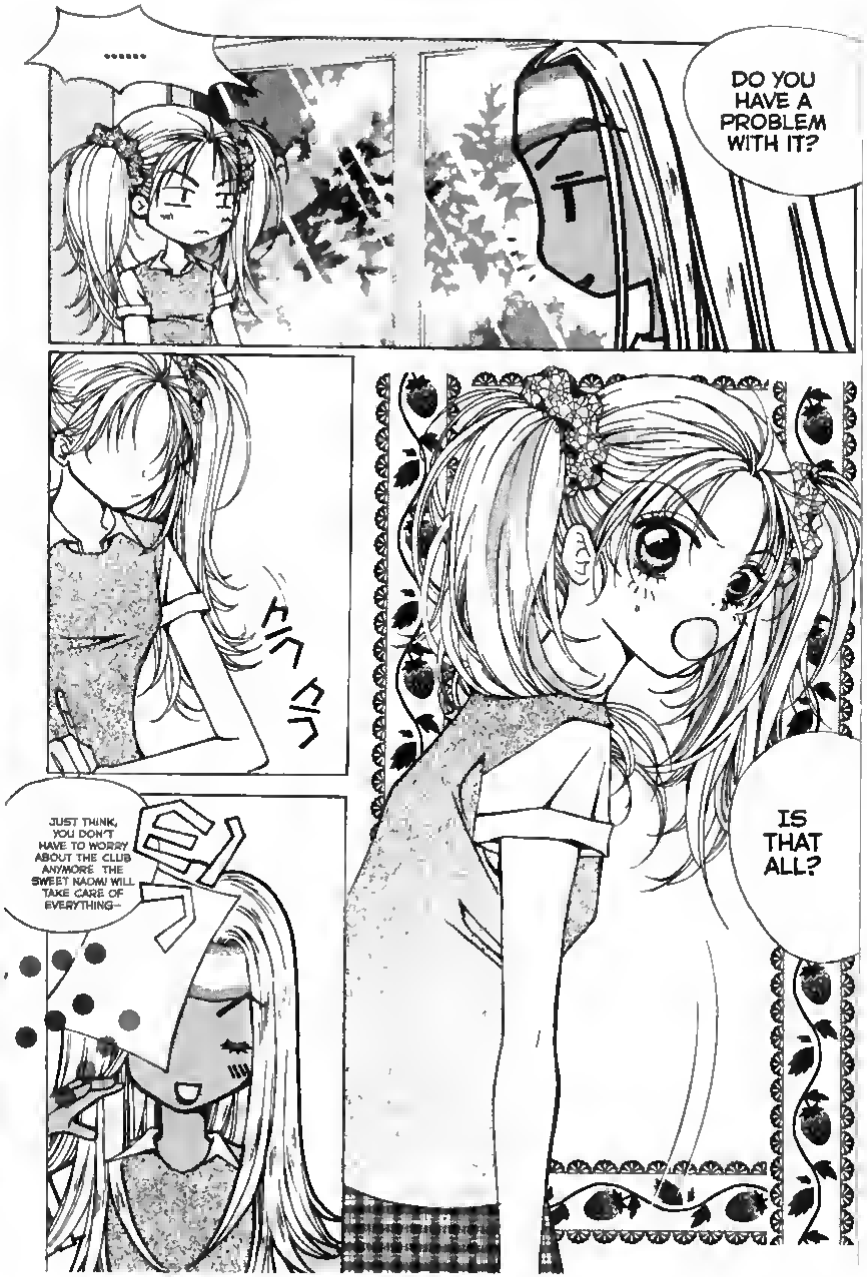
LET ME GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE.

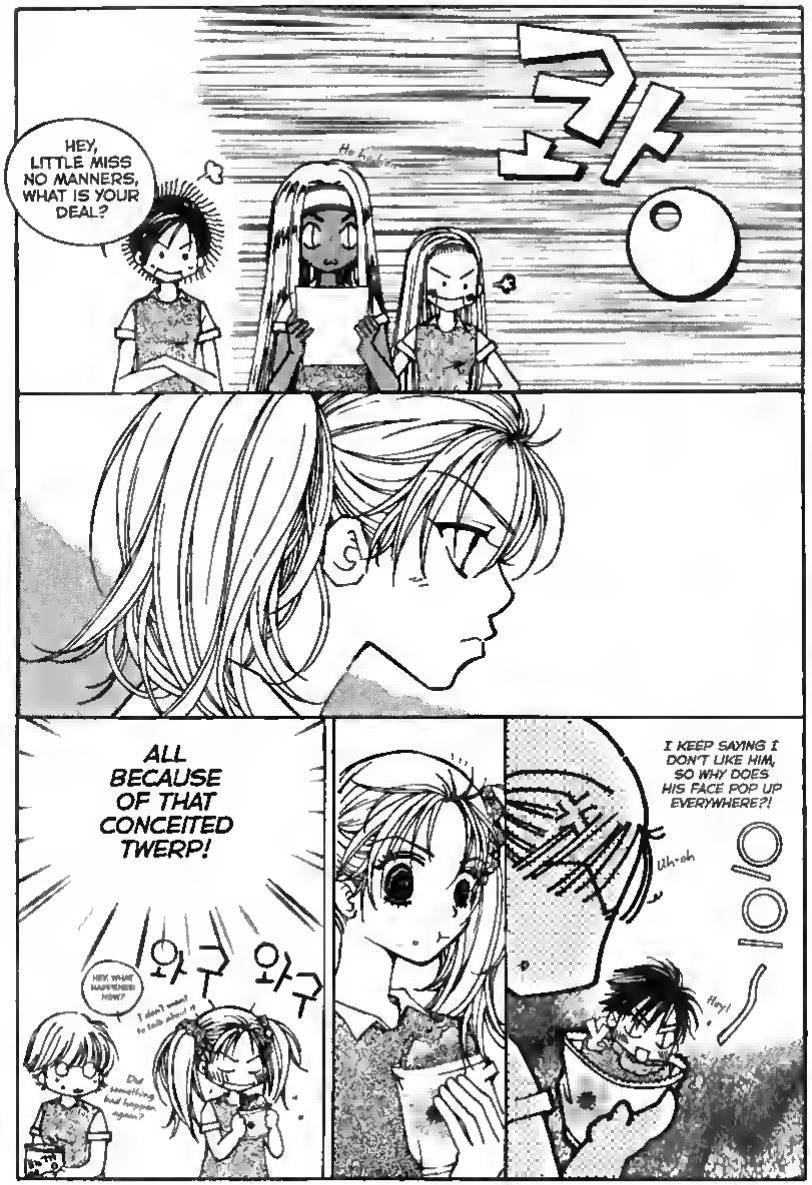
DON'T BE A COOKIE CUTTER.
YOU'RE EVERY GIRL'S IMAGE OF THEIR FIRST LOVE, BUT...
...IT'S JUST AN IMAGE. IT'S NOT REAL.

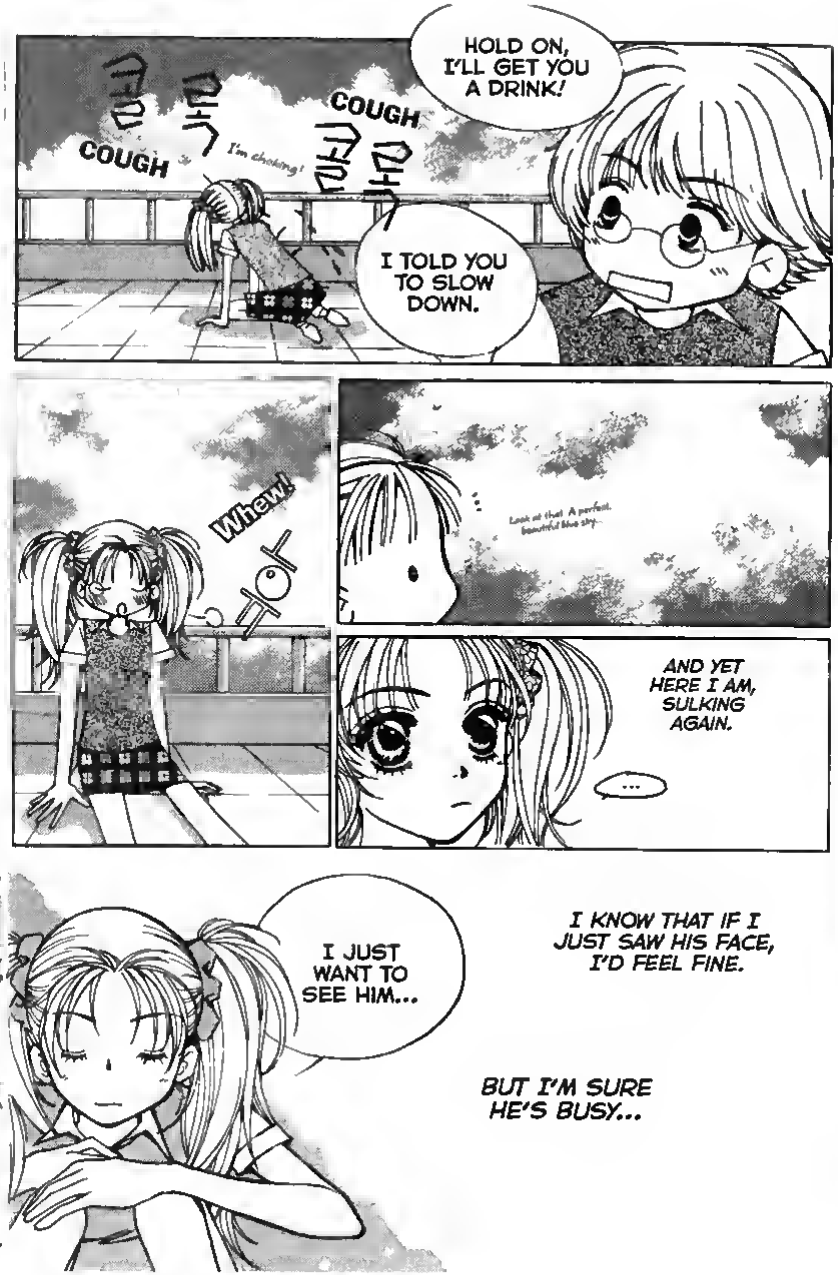
I'M GETTING A LITTLE TIRED ...
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, "NOT REAL"?

OK
OK


WHAT IS THIS?
CAN'T YOU READ?
IT'S A RESIGNATION FORM.
I KNOW THIS IS JUST A FAN CLUB IN SCHOOL, BUT YOUR LITTLE SCANDAL SHOOK THINGS UP TOO MUCH. IT'S SHAMELESS, DON'T YOU THINK?
IT'S TRUE ABSOLUTELY NO CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS DESPICABLE.


.....
DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH IT?
IS THAT ALL?
JUST THINK, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE CLUB ANYMORE. THE SWEET NAOMI WILL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING--

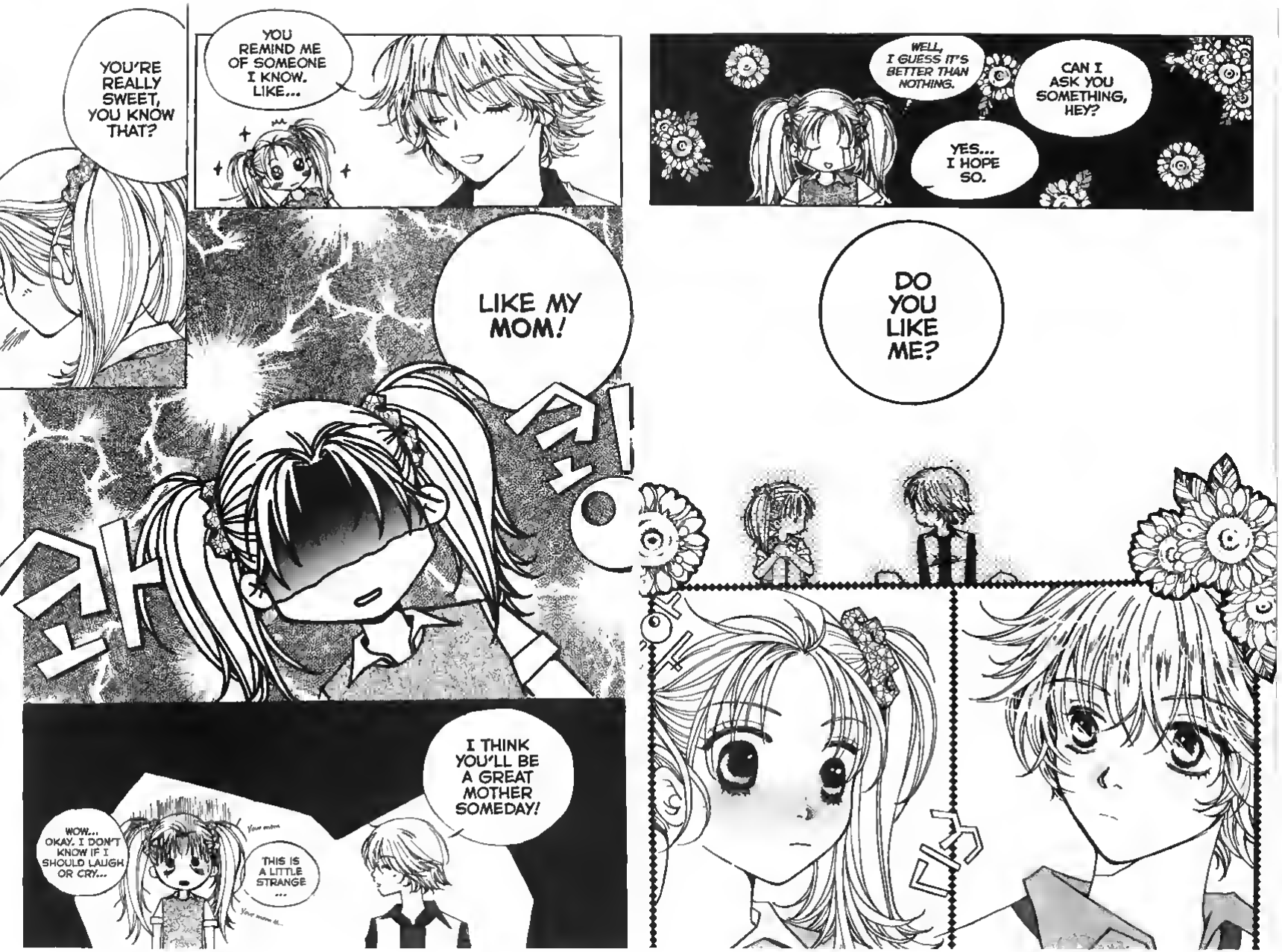

HEY, LITTLE MISS NO MANNERS, WHAT IS YOUR DEAL?
ALL BECAUSE OF THAT CONCEITED TWERP!
I KEEP SAYING I DON'T LIKE HIM, SO WHY DOES HIS FACE POP UP EVERYWHERE?!
Uh-oh
Hey!


COUGH
COUGH
I'm choking!
HOLD ON, I'LL GET YOU A DRINK!
I TOLD YOU TO SLOW DOWN.
Whew!
Look at that. A perfect, beautiful blue sky.
AND YET HERE I AM, SULKING AGAIN.
...
I JUST WANT TO SEE HIM...
I KNOW THAT IF I JUST SAW HIS FACE, I'D FEEL FINE.
BUT I'M SURE HE'S BUSY...

ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT ME?
I JUST GOT BORED, SO I DECIDED TO DYE IT. I NEEDED A CHANGE.
DOES IT...LOOK BAD ON ME?
NO! IT LOOKS GREAT!
I'M GLAD.
PERFECT!
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THAT, SO IT WAS A BIT AWKWARD.
BUT I THINK IT'S GOOD, TOO. CHANGE IS GOOD.
HOW'S IT SWINGIN'?
E...EZ?!
LOOK AT YOU! YOUR HAIR!!
And your clothes!

I'M NOT SURE WHY I DIDN'T DO IT SOONER.
So.
thadump thadump
HEH HEH. IT'S FUNNY, THOUGH. DONTCHA' THINK?
UH...
ARE YOU...
ARE YOU DOWN ABOUT SOMETHING?
!

ARE YOU A MIND READER OR SOME THING?
Wow...
BUT, YOU'RE SPOT ON.
NO, I MEAN... I JUST... THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE–
I HAVE A SENSE FOR THESE KINDS OF THINGS. ALL GIRLS DO.
SOMETIMES WHEN YOU'RE SAD OR DEPRESSED ABOUT SOMETHING, YOU'LL CHANGE YOUR HAIR OR YOUR APPEARANCE...I MEAN... THAT'S WHAT GIRLS DO A LOT OF THE TIME. ER, MAYBE THAT'S NOT YOU, THEN.
REALLY? I HAD NO IDEA.
I AM A LITTLE SAD, I GUESS.
AND A LITTLE HUNGRY. I DIDN'T EAT LUNCH.
Maybe I'm sad because I'm hungry.
YOU SHOULDN'T SKIP MEALS!
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE GROWING. AND YOU SHOULD NEVER SKIP BREAKFAST. I READ THAT SOMEWHERE.
THAT'S OKAY. I CAN DO WITHOUT ONE MEAL.
WAIT, AT LEAST LET ME GET YOU SOME BREAD OR SOMETHING, JUST TO KEEP YOU GOING


YOU'RE REALLY SWEET, YOU KNOW THAT?
YOU REMIND ME OF SOMEONE I KNOW. LIKE...
LIKE MY MOM!
HUH?
I THINK YOU'LL BE A GREAT MOTHER SOMEDAY!
WOW... OKAY. I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD LAUGH OR CRY...
THIS IS A LITTLE STRANGE ...
WELL, I GUESS IT'S BETTER THAN NOTHING.
CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING, HEY?
YES... I HOPE SO.
DO YOU LIKE ME?

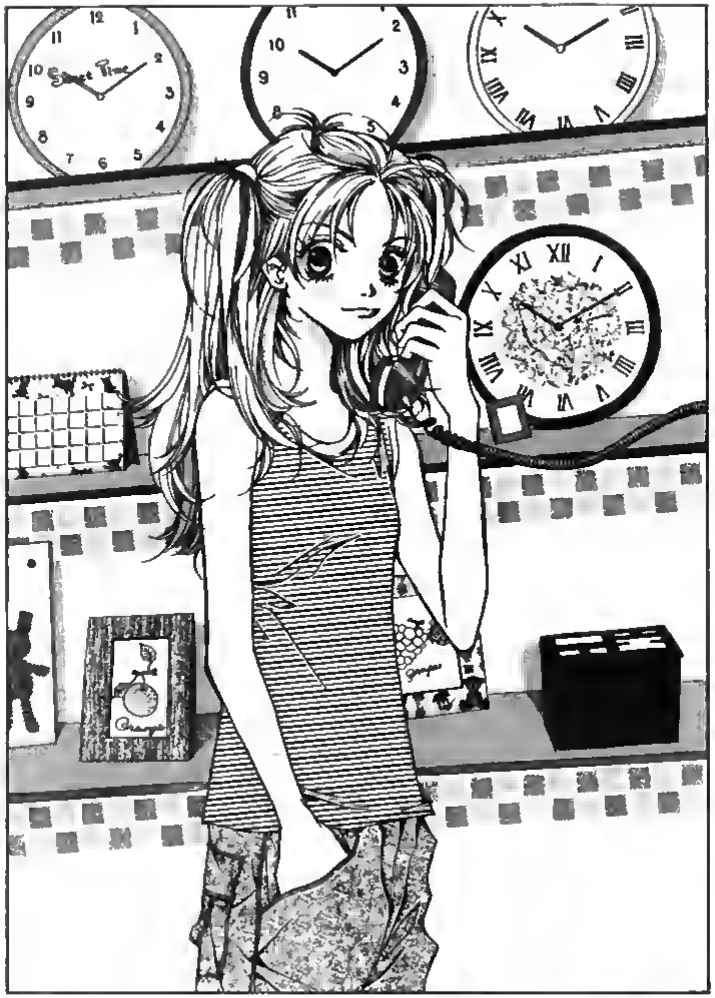
I-I...UH...
UM...
I MEAN, DO YOU THINK I'M COOL?
—!
WHY IS HE ASKING ME THIS?
I GUESS NOT, HUH?
DO OTHER PEOPLE THINK I'M COOL?
EZ? YOU'RE ACTING A BIT...
...WEIRD TODAY.
OH...!
NO, WAIT! YOU ARE COOL! AT THE BEGINNING, YOU START OUT... UM...
She's so sincere
NO, I DON'T MEAN TO BE—
Ah, dang, hold on a sec.
WAIT!
LOOK, I DIDN'T REALLY GIVE YOU AN ANSWER BACK THERE BECAUSE... WELL, BECAUSE YOU CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD, BUT...
...I'D LIKE TO SAY IT NOW.
WAIT A MINUTE!
HELLO? YEAH, I'M STILL AT SCHOOL.
YES... OKAY, OKAY...
I'M SORRY. I HAVE TO GO.
That's actually a relief
Phew
I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER, 'KAY?

YOU ARE DEFINITELY COOL!
AND, WELL...I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU!
AND NOT JUST ME. EVERYONE LIKES YOU.
SO IT'S ALL GOOD! AND NO MATTER WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU, JUST HANG IN THERE!
THANKS!
I'LL REMEMBER THAT.
HEY! I GOT YOU SOMETHING TO DRINK.

"ONE MUST NEVER FORGET..."

NEXT TIME. NEXT TIME, I'LL LET HIM KNOW EXACTLY HOW I FEEL!

"...THEIR DESTINY AND THE PERSON THEY WERE BORN TO LOVE."



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